



The Gavel

Volume 87
Issue 3
December 2012

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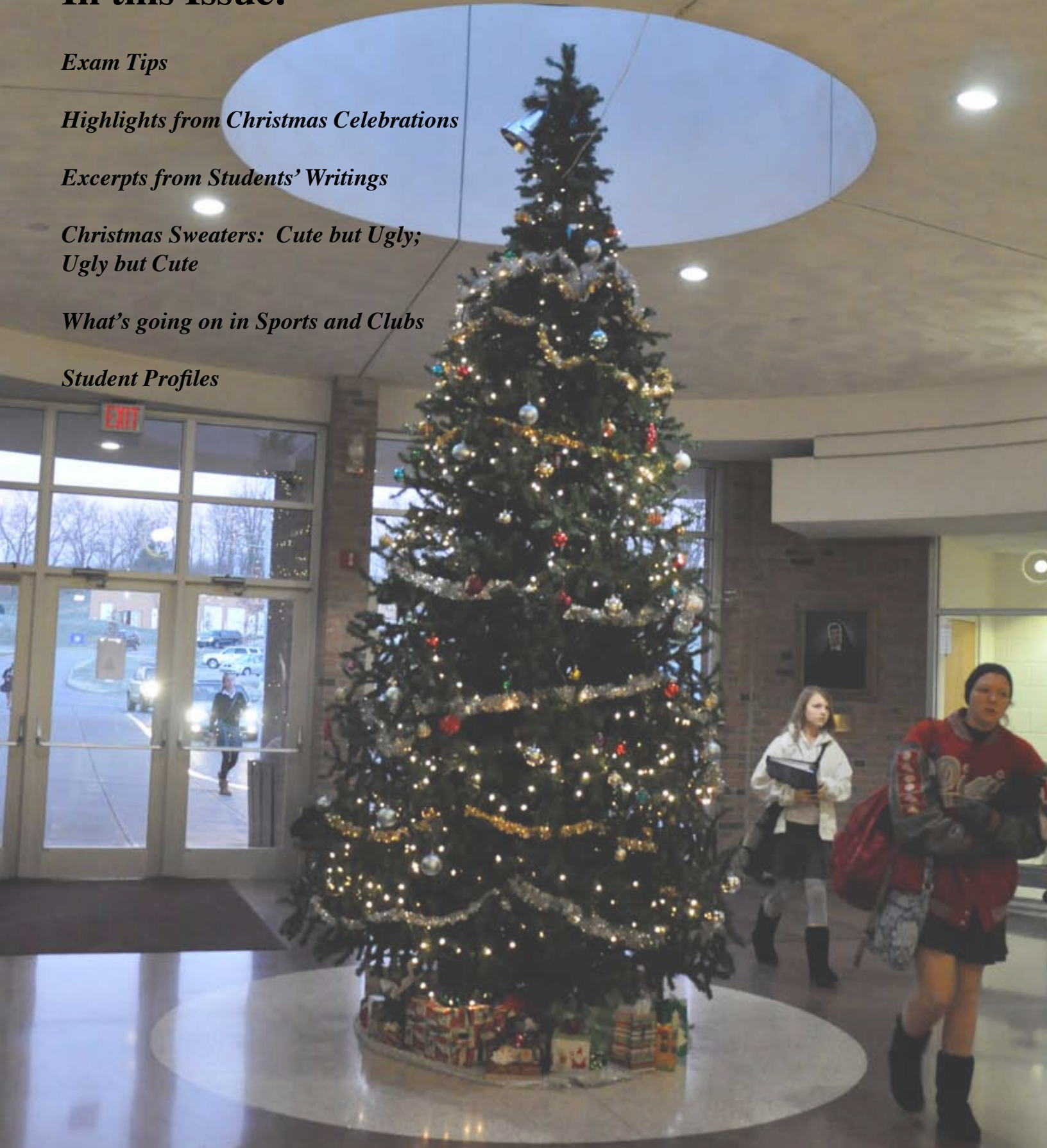
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Cover Photo by Barb Benkert

EXAMS.....

Top Ten Tips to get ready for Exams

1. Get plenty of sleep- 8 hours a night!
2. Avoid caffeine -It can make you jittery and keep you from sleeping.
3. Eat right: Carbs are a good source to fuel your brain.
4. Don't over do it! Take breaks every hour.
5. Stay calm-stress can make you study worse and forget things.
6. Avoid negative people- Partner up with someone who is positive and has good study habits!
7. Make sure you are prepared-Check the time you should arrive at your exam and what materials you need to bring!
8. Make reviewing fun-Come up with a song or rhyme or a saying!
9. Exercise- Get oxygen flowing to your brain!
10. Put away distractions- No music, social media, or cell phones.

Wednesday December 19th
7:30/8:00 (Wednesday 1st Class)
9:05-9:15 (Homeroom)
9:20-10:20 or 10:50 (Wednesday 7th Class)

Thursday December 20th
7:30/8:00 (Thursday 1st Class)
9:05-9:25 (Homeroom/Locker Cleanout)
9:30-10:30 (Thursday 6th Class)
10:35-11:35 or 12:05 (Thursday 3rd Class)

Friday December 21st
7:30/8:00 (Friday 4th Class)
9:05-9:15 (Homeroom)
9:20-10:20 or 10:50 (Friday 6th Class)

Excerpts from articles written by Publications I students

A Time of Waiting

by Meagan Sullivan

Advent is a time of waiting, waiting for Christ's coming. Many Christians are blinded to that meaning of Christmas because they are distracted by the shopping and decorating. This year, my religion teacher, Mrs. Van Auken, has decided to get us to focus more on the spiritual meaning of this season. In class, we made an advent chain of paper. On each piece of paper is a challenge we are encouraged to try each day. These challenges can include being nice to your family, say a prayer before bed, or skip a day of lunch. The purpose is to help us focus on being a good Christian to remind us of what Christmas is truly about.

Exams Fast Approaching

by Alex Dierig

Exams are quickly approaching as everyone is getting excited for the nice relaxing break. Teachers are giving us assignments and tests to take before the break and exams. As the study guides come out we all start to stress. Everyone is excited for the holidays and the exams are the last thing on everyone's mind. When really it should be the first thing. All it takes for us PANDA girls is countless hours to make the study guide with all the information; reading over notes over and over again until you feel as if your eyes are going to pop out by drinking a large amount of coffee and energy drinks; then, study all night for your first two exams. Get up and study again. Then comes the last exam.. we are all brain dead. We always hope the last day will be the easiest but for some its the hardest day of exams.

Super Saturday

by Caroline Krumme

This past Saturday, Notre Dame Academy was full of events and activities. The annual fruit sale was going on all weekend. Student athletes had to work shifts to sort and organize fruit boxes for people that were picking up their fruit orders for delivery. Not only were student athletes on campus all weekend, but the high school placement test took place on Saturday morning. Many eighth graders from the grade schools in the area came to take their test for coming here to NDA. The ACT also took place in classrooms around the school that day. These various tests and activities made the weekend quite an event. All feedback from the weekend was positive. Super Saturday was a success!

Heisman Trophy Awarded

by Kindsey Bernhard

On Saturday night the Heisman trophy was awarded to the Johnny Manziel, the Texas A&M freshman quarterback. Johnny's two competitors for the trophy were the University of Notre Dame linebacker Manti Te'o and Kent State quarterback Collin Klein, both seniors. Johnny Manziel is the only freshman to have ever won the Heisman trophy. Manziel passed for 3,419 yards and threw for 24 touchdowns and ran for 1,181 yards and 19 more scores. This was the Aggies debut in the Southeastern Conference, a powerhouse of football teams. Manziel lead his team to a 10-2 record and defeated the No. 1 ranked Alabama in a huge game in Tuscaloosa. Out of that game came the nickname "Johnny Football" from his style of dodging, darting, throwing and escaping danger. The Aggies are headed to the AT&T Cotton Bowl in Arlington, Texas on January 4th, and will play a very talented Oklahoma Sooners team.

DRAMA PANDAS

A Seussified Christmas Carol

ON DECEMBER FIRST NOTRE DAME ACADEMY AND COVINGTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL KICKED OFF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, WITH "A SEUSSIFIED CHRISTMAS CAROL!" THIS PLAY TAKES THE CLASSIC HOLIDAY FAVORITE "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" AND GIVES IT A DR. SEUSS STYLE TWIST. THE PLAY RAN THROUGH DECEMBER SECOND AND CLOSED WITH A SOLD OUT PERFORMANCE! CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT SHOW DRAMA PANDAS AND MRS. PERRINO FOR DIRECTING HER FIRST PLAY AT NOTRE DAME!



Sarah Buckley, Maggie Hehman,
Katie Maurer and Cassidy Ryan



Sophomores getting ready for the show

Drama Pandas hanging out during practice.



Photos by Mr. Maurer

Christmas Celebrations around NDA

St. Nick's Day

by Maggie Cheesman

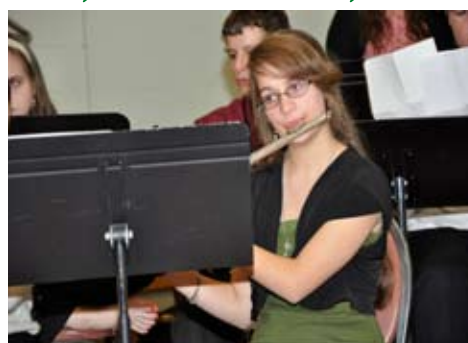
On Wednesday, St. Nick made a visit to my family and many other families. St. Nick's Day is a religious holiday that many Catholics celebrate. This holiday has been celebrated for a very long time. Most families either put up their stockings or put out their shoes in hopes for a visit from St. Nick. People normally get money, ornaments, gift cards and much more. In my house, this holiday gets my family ready for Christmas because we know it is a short twenty days after St. Nick's Day! After St. Nick's Day, the Christmas countdown can officially begin! Happy St. Nick's Day and Merry Christmas!

Secret Santa

by Emily Ryan

The student council had their annual Christmas party last Thursday. We began our meeting by having our secret santa. Each girl had a member of the student council and had to get a gift under ten dollars. This kicked off the Christmas spirit for all of us. We then proceeded to decorate the school. We hung the lights, set up Christmas trees, and put candy canes up the drive. We really are excited for this season of giving and friendship and we look forward to our break coming up ahead.

Christmas Concert Band, Dance, Chorus

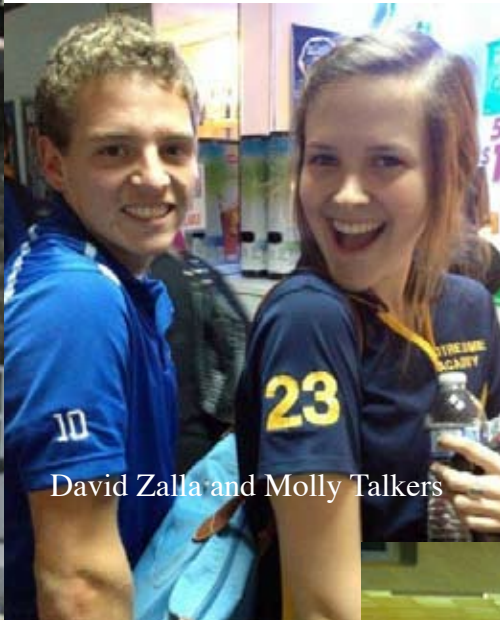


Photos by Barb Benkert

WINTER SPORTS



Olivia Voskhul



David Zalla and Molly Talkers



Julia Johnson



Grace Shields and Taylor Berling



Elly Ogle



Maggie McLeod, Kassandra Neltner, Katie Bamberger, Molly Seiter

Fruit Sale

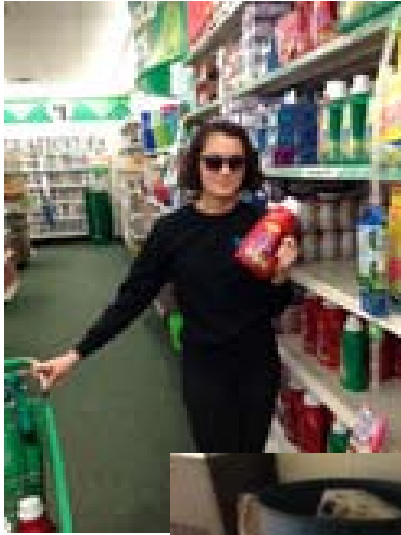
By Meg Berberich

This past weekend NDA had its annual fruit sale. On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday everyone who participated or will participate in a sport this year worked the fruit sale. Each athlete is required to sell at least 15 boxes of fruit for playing one sport and 20 boxes for two sports. The fruit sale is a very large and complex process that takes the help of all the GAA members to make it run smoothly. The workers fold boxes, send the boxes down a conveyer belt, and count the boxes. When all the boxes are sorted out, all the members of GAA must return to NDA to pick up their fruit.



MEET ME AT THE CLUBS

IT'S GOIN DOWN



As NDA finished the food drive, Interact Club began their annual Hygiene Drive for BeCon. We had another successful year, bringing in over 500 hygiene products! (bottom) Way to go pandas and special thanks to Emily Bautista (on the left) and the other Interact Club members who took the time to purchase the hygiene products.



"Try telling that to 'Mr. No Sweat Glands' here. He says he doesn't need deodorant."

advice-with-dr-julia.com

Investment Club at NKU



Notre Dame's Investment Club attended a field trip to NKU November 26th to learn about the stock market and investment. They also played a simulation game dealing with money and stocks. Club member, Rachel Victoria said, "It was really fun and it gave you good information on how to use your money wisely so that you can become a millionaire after you retire."

Profiles

Nicole Zembrodt



Q: What made you want to be school president?

N: Freshman year when I saw the presidents that year it looked like a lot of fun. When I became a part of student council I realized I wanted to follow in their footsteps.

Q: What were/are your goals for this year?

N: To continue traditions, do more spirited events, and make the year unforgettable.

Q: What event are you most looking forward to being a part of this year?

N: Planning Catholic Schools week!

Q: What is your favorite memory of student council?

N: After losing the can food drive when we went over to Cov Cath and served lunch to the boys. We also got to sing the fight song during all three lunch mods.

Megan Beischel



Q: What made you want to be school president?

M: I've just always wanted to be able to help plan the things that I think make NDA a fun place to be.

Q: What were/are your goals for this year?

M: Our two main goals for this year were boosting school spirit and improving communication among administration, student groups, and the rest of the school. We are also always trying to incorporate new and fun things into student life like events with CCH.

Q: What event are you most looking forward to being a part of this year?

M: I am really jazzed about prom. It's supposed to be pretty swanky.

Q: What is your favorite memory of student council?

M: Hands down standing in front of the entire school singing a cappella in a child's Little Mermaid costume at club orientation!

Addy Frey



Q: What made you want to be school secretary?

A: I wanted to be school secretary to be able to help plan things like freshman orientation and club orientation. I also really wanted to be more involved with new things going on in the school.

Q: What were/are your goals for this year?

A: My goals for this year are to have better communication within student council and to better the school in anyway I can.

Q: What event are you most looking forward to being a part of this year?

A: I was most looking forward to being a part of club orientation and I am still looking forward to being a part of the talent show.

Q: What is your favorite memory of student council?

A: Sitting out on pandalymphics and chilling inside with Katie Stewart and Megan Beischel talking and eating.

Christmas Movie Trivia!



1. What was the name of the "steepest downhill grade" in the world in "The Polar Express"?

2. What movie is this quote from: "You'll shoot your eye out"

3. Who is Snoopy's enemy in "Charlie Brown's Christmas"?



4. According to the song, "Frosty the Snowman", what kind of soul does Frosty have?

5. What was the name of Tiny Tim's father in the movie "A Christmas Carol"?



6. What was Rudolph's father's name?

7. On the 11th day of Christmas, what did my true love send to me?

8. What does Alvin want for Christmas in the Chipmunk Song?

Answers:

1. Glacier Gulch

2. "A Christmas Story"

3. The Red Baron

4. A Jolly Happy Soul

5. Bob Cratchit

6. Donner

7. 11 Pipers Piping

8. A Hula Hoop

9. Cactus

10. Twice

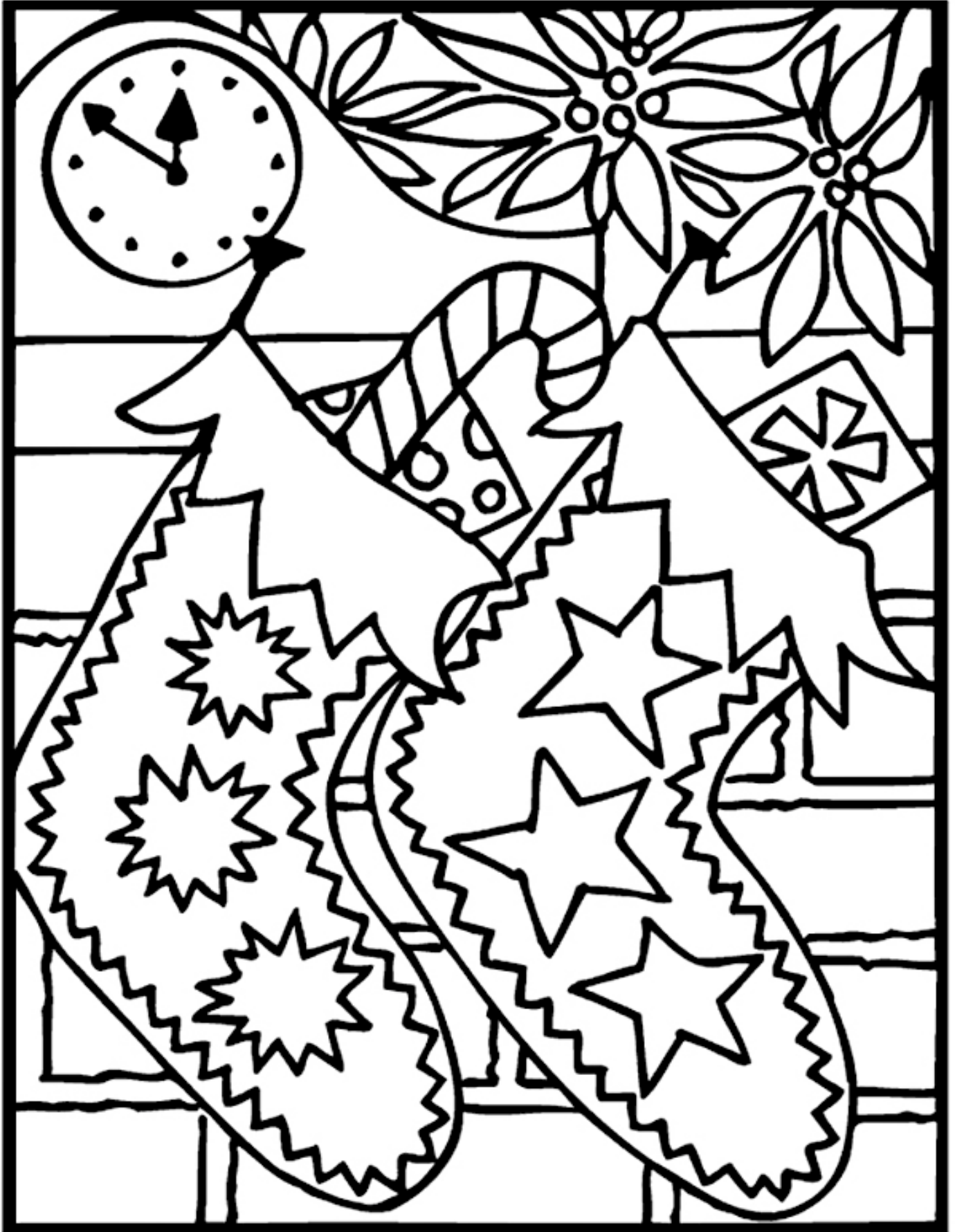
9. The Grinch is as cuddly as a _____.

10. How many times does Santa check his list?

Print this out and color for some fun!



Print this out and color for some fun!



Christmas Spirit

Cute, But "Ugly" Sweaters



Merry Christmas NDA

Christmas Spirit Ugly, But "Cute" Sweaters



Photos by Publications students

Happy New Year!



You better watch out
You better not cry
You better not pout
I'm telling you why

**SANTA CLAUSE
IS COMING
TO TOWN!**

He sees you when you're
tweeting,
He knows when you're
here late,
He knows how many
green slips you get..



**SO BE
GOOD
FOR GOODNESS SAKE!**