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Top Three Things in this Issue:

- CHS Earns Bronze Medal in iGEM Competition
- WMS Theater Presents "Snow Angel"
- 2021 Food and Essentials Drive Results

A Place for Everyone



November and December are full of holidays that are important to the many different religions and cultures shared by our students. In this edition of "A Place For Everyone," we talk with CHS Senior Dheera Rathikindi about the traditions associated with the Hindu holiday of Diwali and the meaning behind the celebration.

BOE Candidate Filing Timeline Changes; Opens Dec. 7

Filing for the Board of Education Election opens on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021, at 8 a.m. and will continue through Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2021, at 5 p.m. The timeline for filing starts earlier and ends sooner based on the changes made to election laws in HB 271, which was signed into law in June 2021. Candidate filing will open one week earlier and close three weeks earlier than previous elections. The regular terms of BOE Secretary Stacey Siwak and Director Joe Miller will expire in April 2022. The appointed term of Director Steve Singer also expires in April 2022. Singer was appointed in June 2021 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of David Gulick. [Learn more about filing to run for the Board of Education.](#)

CHS Earns Bronze Medal in iGEM Competition



Clayton High School's team won a bronze medal in the 2021 International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition for their project "AquaSCOPE: Investigating our Water Distribution Systems." More than 340 collegiate and high school teams and 40,000 global innovators participated in the competition.

The team's project investigated the safety and access to water distribution networks, more specifically tap and bottled water. Through a complex system of experimenting, research and documentation, the students were able to identify different microbiota in the different water samples.

[Check out their presentation for the competition and an animation about their project here.](#)

WMS Theater Presents "Snow Angel"



The WMS Theater Company presented a production of "Snow Angel" last month. Tickets sold out rather quickly and more than 80 students, cast and crew put together this show.

This play is about the chaos that ensues when a blizzard hits the town of Deerpoint, Vermont and a group of teenagers discover a girl who steps out of a snowbank. The format of the show follows journal entries and interactions among the characters during a single day. This show is a comedic, mysterious and inspiring story that brought joy to all those who saw it.

View more information and photos by Kristi Foster [here](#).

2021 Food and Essentials Drive Results



The 2021 Food and Essentials Drive sponsored by the School District of Clayton PTO Council and Clayton Education Foundation was a success. Our community donated a total of \$7,023 to help support District families in need and replenish the food pantries at each school. Thank you to all of the families and individuals who donated. [Learn more here](#).

PAC.ED Information



PAC.ED advocates for awareness, understanding, equity and inclusion of and for all children with disabilities in the School District of Clayton. PAC.ED is a volunteer organization made up of parents, Clayton and Special School District (SSD) staff and administrators, as well as community members. Check out the [Facebook](#) page and our [webpages](#) to keep up-to-date on current PAC.ED

events! Learn more about what's happening below:

Wydown PAC.ED After School Event Friday, Dec. 3 Boards, Books, & Bears

On Friday, Dec. 3, PAC.ED will host a Boards, Books, & Bears after school event in the Wydown Library. Wydown PAC.ED students and parents/guardians are welcome to come and enjoy games, books, and leisure time. We will be practicing social distancing and adhering to district guidelines. Parents must register to attend and also accompany their student(s). [Please register at this link](#).

Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 12-1 p.m. Clayton PAC.ED Meeting (via Zoom)

Make a difference today by [clicking and donating](#) and/or [clicking and volunteering](#) to support the vital work of the PAC.ED!

Join us in celebrating the 2021 Inclusive Schools Week Dec. 6-12!

Be on the lookout for details!

"Cents for Sensory" final tallies will be announced in the next issue.

Staff and Student Achievement



Congratulations to the team at CHS on The Globe Newsmagazine for their NSPA Pacemaker awards at the [2021 Philadelphia Storytelling Workshop](#). After they were declared a [Pacemaker Finalist for the 2020-2021 School Year](#), they moved on to the next stage of the competition. Awards were presented at the NSPA Awards Ceremony at the conclusion of the workshop. See the results below:

- Pacemaker Finalist: The Globe Newsmagazine
- 5th Place - Best of Show for Website
- 8th Place - Best of Show for Newsmagazine
- 1st Place - Best of Show: **Ella Cuneo** for "Streets of Philly Reporting"
- 4th in the Nation - [Local Climate Change Reporting](#) for the Climate Change News Story [In Danger](#) by **Vivian Chen, Seraphina Corbo, Ellen Cuneo, Thomas Gustafson, Alexandra Hagemeister and Shane LaGesse.**
- Honorable Mention for the [Digital Story of the Year](#) for the Multimedia Feature Story on [American Policing](#) by **Alex Cohen, Seraphina Corbo, Ellen Cuneo, Alexandra Hagemeister, Rachel Liang, Ana Mitreva, Siddhi Narayan, Ivy Reed and Angela Xiao.**



Congratulations to **Erin Sucher-O'Grady** for achieving Master Journalism Educator (MJE) status from the Journalism Education Association (JEA). She was recognized and awarded at the Fall JEA/NSPA National High School Journalism Convention on Nov. 13. This is the highest level of certification that an educator can receive from the JEA. This certification requires five years of journalism teaching experience, previous certifications, a project around journalism education amongst other responsibilities.

Nutritional Notes

From Chartwells Director of Dining Services Michelle Fohey. Edited by Ali Lenger.

Our food focus for the month is dark leafy greens, which can be stir-fried, stewed, steamed or eaten fresh as a salad. Trying mixing different salad greens together for a more flavorful salad. It is recommended that children eat one to two cups of dark leafy greens per week.

[Learn how to store your leafy greens here.](#)



Focus On: Enjoy the Holidays Stress Free

There can be a lot of activities and responsibilities to juggle around the holidays. To protect your and your family's mental health follow these tips below:

- **Set Realistic Expectations:** It can be tempting to make a holiday dish from scratch or plan a complex gathering. Review what is realistic for your schedule. Store bought items are never a bad thing. Instead of hosting a party at your place, try going to a safe activity outdoors like ice skating or a holiday lighting instead.
- **Keep a Budget:** Create a budget and find places to save money. Find free community activities through event calendars online for your family. Give your coworkers a thoughtful card or do a gift swap to keep from overspending. Set a spending limit for presents at your gatherings to relieve the pressure of having to spend money on something extravagant.
- **Be Mindful:** Taking part in relaxing activities such as meditation, journaling or practicing mindfulness as a way to be kind to yourself and others. The more at peace you are, the more joy you can spread this holiday season.

[Read more in this article from Seattle Times here.](#)

Calendar

Dec. 7 - All in Clayton Coalition Meeting @ 4 p.m

Dec. 7 - CHS Orchestra Concert @ 7:30 p.m

Dec. 10 - CHS Choirs Winter Concert @ 7:30 p.m

Dec. 15 - BOE Meeting @ 7 p.m

Dec. 17 - Next Issue of eNews

[View more events on our calendar here.](#)

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