



PANTHER PAWS



February 2025

Climax-Scotts Jr./Sr. High School

Climax, Michigan 49034

Chicago Shakespeare Trip

By Ivy Beattie

On February 18th, a total of 51 junior and senior year C-S students went to Chicago to experience “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” as intended by Shakespeare himself at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Now personally, I really enjoyed the trip, so I decided to see how it started.

In an interview with Mr. Vick, who has led the trip for 13 years, I asked how the trip started, and here’s what he told me. “During my first year teaching, I worked at a school in Illinois where they went to Athens, Greece every year, and I thought well that’s really far away and costs a lot of money. What’s something that would still be pretty cool that we could do that’s local? I did some researching and I saw that Chicago Shakespeare Theater did student matinees and thought ‘that would be a really good idea’ so I talked to the principal back then and he said it was a good idea. The rest is history.” And that folks is how the Chicago Shakespeare trip began!

The way Chicago Shakespeare Theater presented the show was an almost magical experience. They made a show that’s more than 400 years old appeal to teenagers who couldn’t stay awake through the movie. They even asked for two volunteers from the audience to fill the roles of the Duke and Duchess: one of those volunteers was our very own Amy Lynn! I had a blast and I hope everyone else had at least as much fun.



Above: C-S students and chaperones pose for a picture in front of Navy Pier. (Photo credit: Angela Gilbert)

Valentine’s Day Poll

By Chloe Czuk

We asked the student body some questions about Valentine’s Day. Here are the results!



Chocolate boxes were voted the Best Valentine’s candy with a total of 74%.

Our students voted that the top two romance movies were “The Notebook” and “Gnomeo and Julliet”. They voted “When I Was Your Man” by Bruno Mars as the best love song and the best gift was flowers.

We even asked our students what their favorite, school-appropriate pick up lines were! Coming in at #1 was, “Do you have a map? Because I keep getting lost in your eyes.” Coming in at #2 was, “No pen, no paper but you still draw my attention.”

Other good ones included, “If I’m Lightning then you must be McQueen” and “I must’ve gone fishing because you’re the perfect catch.”

State Runner Up!

By Logan Gilbert

After dominating wins in the regional semi-final and regional final against Lawton (77-5), and Decatur (62-17), the 3rd ranked Climax-Scotts/Martin Co-op team (CSM) competed in the MHSAA Team State quarterfinals Friday, 2/21 against 6th ranked Union City.

After getting off to a commanding 24-0 lead through 4 weight classes, CSM was in full control of the dual. They would go on to win the quarterfinals by a final score of 47-28, and would move on to the semifinals against the 2nd ranked St. Louis Sharks.

In a battle of the #2 and #3 teams in Division 4, it would be one that will be remembered for years to come. Through the first 5 matches both teams would exchange wins and the Sharks would be up 16-6 with 9 matches to go. However, from that point, CSM would go on to string out 4 straight wins with 2 earning bonus points, giving the team the lead 20-16 with 5 matches to go. CSM would then drop the next two matches both by decisions before Senior Samuel Bleeker got bonus points in a 10-0 win against his opponent, putting CSM back in the lead with a score of 24-22 with the final two matches to go.

The next match was a hard fought battle dropped by CSM, putting them in a 25-24 deficit with the last match remaining. It looked like this match would be St. Louis' match to lose, knowing they were sending out the 13th ranked 106 pound state qualifier. But CSM had total faith that their unranked, 106 pounder (but also regional qualifier) Jacinto Lopez could lead them to the promised land!

And he did just that! Pinning his opponent in 4:50, completing the stunning upset over the 2nd ranked St. Louis Sharks and sending his team to the Division 4 state finals against powerhouse Hudson.

This was CSM's first appearance in the Finals ever since becoming a co-op in 2015, and they had a tough task ahead of them with Hudson, the three-time defending state champions.

CSM would get out to an early 12-0 lead after the first two matches: one by pin fall and other by injury default. But then Hudson rolled out the hammers of their lineup and ended up winning the next 4 matches, all by bonus points, taking a commanding 21-12 lead through the first 6 matches.

However, CSM would answer, winning the next 2 matches by bonus points and tying the team state championship up at 21 a piece with 6 matches to go.

Unfortunately, Hudson would win the next 3 matches, putting the dual at a 35-21 score with 3 matches to go. Sadly, despite closing the gap in the final score, CSM's hopes of winning came to an end, losing by a final score of 45-25.

CSM gave the now 4-time team State Champions everything they had! They had a phenomenal season, ending with a 26-2 overall record!



Above: Seniors Logan Gilbert and Jackson Bagwell hoist their runner-up trophy.

(Photo Credit: Brenda Baker)



Left: The CSM State Runner-Up Wrestling team poses together with their trophy.

Winterfest Dance

By Ilona Fitzsimmons-Kovach

At this year's Winterfest dance, Ashlynn Bradley and Samuel Bleeker were voted queen and king. The royal nominees for king were Cole Curtis, Jackson Bagwell, Brayan Simbron-Malerva, and Rosendo Delgado-Garcia. The queen candidates were Madison Vincent, Madelyn Schultz, Kylie Syneath, and Lily vanDillen. Everyone showed up in their best fit, and there were many great couples at the dance. One couple that looked like a power duo were Jane Carillo and Ryan Pejakovich. These two looked like the ultimate classy couple! They had a great look with their matching emerald green outfits. The best dancer of the night award most definitely goes to Ashlynn Gilbert because of her rockin' dance moves. And the best dressed award goes to Anahi Morales and Tye Chambers. According to our Publications staff, these two had the snazziest looks at the dance.



Above left: Christian Kirkham, Ivy Beattie, and Amy Lynn pose for a pic at the dance. (Photo Credit: Heather Wechsler)

Above middle: Paige Amos, Jane Carillo, Michaela Carillo, Onalise Newland, Lucy Schultz, and Elizabeth Morales team up for a group pic. (Photo Credit: C-S Publications)

Above right: George Murphy and Mrs. Caitlyn Tiller share a laugh while working the front desk. (Photo Credit: Heather Wechsler)

Snow Day Survey

By Emily Wiest

This winter, we have had several snow days. Students filled out a survey regarding the snow days, and responded to the questions: "What's your favorite way to spend a snow day", "What's your favorite day of the week to have a snow day", and "If you had to go outside, what would you want to do?". The majority of students voted that they are most excited about not going to school on a snow day, while other students said they look forward to sleeping in, playing video games, or watching tv. Our students chose Monday as their favorite day of the week to have a snow day with Friday being the second most voted option. Finally, our students decided that, if they had to go outside on a snow day, they would go sledding, go ice fishing, or build a snowman.



Right: Check out the snowman our students made in our court yard! (Photo Credit: Jackson Bagwell)



Winterfest Hallway Competition

By Kylie Sineath

For Winterfest 2025, each grade decorated a hallway to celebrate the four seasons, show some school spirit, and create a festive atmosphere throughout the school!

Freshmen represented Spring in the freshmen hallway. Sophomores took over the main high school hall, from Mrs. Pobuda's room to Mr. Himebauch, celebrating summer. Finally, Seniors showed some winter spirit in Mrs. Reichert's Hallway. The Juniors showed off the fall season in Deputy Benton's hallway. Their creative expression of the fall won them first place!

These hallway themes created a vibrant and exciting environment for Winterfest week, allowing students and staff to express themselves while celebrating the changing seasons and showing some school spirit!



Left: Jane Carillo, Chloe Czuk, and Jordan Grove work on their Fall hallway decorations.

Right: The senior class works together to design their winter themed hallway.

(Photo credit: C-S Publications)



Band Festival

By Gracie Kloosterman

The C-S band did great at their festival in Mattawan in late February. Mrs. Reichert stated that both the junior and senior high bands did wonderful! She said the junior high band was rated with a particularly high rating due to the fact that they had been given the chance to warm up and prepare in 1st hour that morning. Mrs. Reichert also stated that everything went as planned, and the festival wasn't effected too much by the snow storm earlier that week, which had been a concern leading up to the day of the festival.

The following week the band performed the same music from the festival for their family and friends in the high school cafetorium. Both the junior and senior high bands performed two songs apiece. It was a great opportunity for the community to hear the progress they've been making this school year!



Above: The junior high band performs one of their festival songs. (Photo Credit: C-S Publications)



Above: The high school band plays the song "Old Irish Tune", which is a love song. Perfect for February! (Photo credit: C-S Publications)

Senior Spotlight

Madelyn Schultz

Favorite Memory at Climax-Scotts? Hastings Marching Band Competition

What legacy do you hope to leave behind? I want to leave a legacy of hard work, in academics and in music.

What do you plan to do after high school? I plan to attend MSU for my undergrad degree and possibly attend law school.

What's a good word of advice to share with your younger classmates? Always put in the effort to succeed, even if it may seem pointless.



Lylah Parrish

Favorite Memory at Climax-Scotts? Beating Burr Oak junior year volleyball and senior year.

What legacy do you hope to leave behind? Put your all into something you love.

What do you plan to do after high school? Play college volleyball at a 2-year college, travel and become a realtor.

What's a good word of advice to share with your younger classmates? Don't focus on what other people want from you, do what makes you happy and what will better you.



Luke Lawrence

Favorite memory at Climax-Scotts? My favorite memory at Climax-Scotts was beating Mendon in football my junior year.

What legacy do you hope to leave behind? Being respectful, hardworking, and having character.

What do you plan after high-school? Own my own business and live in Colorado.

What's a good word of advice to share with younger classmates? Don't trade sleep for homework, get it done earlier.



Logan Gilbert

Favorite Memory at Climax-Scotts? Getting fancy after football games.

What legacy do you hope to leave behind? Size doesn't always matter.

What do you plan after high-school? Either go to college or work.

What's a good word of advice to share with younger classmates? Enjoy every moment because time flies and next thing you know its all going to be just a memory.



Winterfest

By Kaylee Peck

Spirit week was held between February 10-14th leading up to our Winterfest dance on the 15th. The spirit days this year were: Pajama Day, Favorite Musical Artist Day, Class Color Day, Date Night Day, and Blue and Gold Day. Lots of people throughout the week showed great school spirit! So many people had fun this week and it was amazing to see. Everyone who dressed up this week was very creative in what they wore, and we really do hope everyone has fun with spirit weeks. Its one of the reasons we do them, so the kids can have fun even in a school setting.



Left: Jackson Bagwell and Easton Vanmiddlesworth compete in a Winterfest Assembly Game.

Above right: Cooper Dinse slides for distance in a game at the assembly.

Right: Some of the freshmen show off their pajamas on Pajama Day.

(Photo credit: C-S Publications Staff)



Meet Sarah the Para!

By Ethan Deplanche

Ethan: How do you like being a paraprofessional with Ethan at Tillers?

Ms. Sarah: I have been volunteering at Tillers International for the past few years. I was very excited to join a school community that valued multiple modalities of learning. Ethan has been working at Tillers since 2023 and has learned forging skills, woodworking skills, animal care for large draft animals, and traditional farming skills. His favorite activities at Tillers are forging knives, building animal enclosures and learning to carve spoons and knife handles. He has enjoyed teaching school groups about forging at Tillers. I enjoy supporting Ethan at Tillers and am very proud of all he has accomplished this year.

Ethan: Are you good at blacksmithing?

Ms. Sarah: I had no previous blacksmithing experience before becoming a WBL paraprofessional at Tillers International. So, the short answer is no I am not good at blacksmithing, and I have burned more projects than I have finished. Ethan demonstrates patience as he attempts to teach me about forging. I hope to finish 1 project in the forge this school year.

Ethan: What have you learned at Tillers?

Ms. Sarah: I have learned many things while supporting students at Tillers International. 1) No matter how many plans you make to get things done, farm life sometimes has other plans. Flexibility in task completion is important. 2) If the forge is glowing my projects are probably burning. 3) Students can benefit from experiencing different ways of living life and learning!

Tempered Steel

By Jordan Grove

Tempered Steel is a volleyball game played by the senior and junior boys. It is played every year on the Wednesday of Winterfest week. This year it was a close game with the juniors coming on top. The juniors won the first set but the seniors were able to send the game to a third set after senior Luke Lawrence scored on (according to Mr. Langs) a Tempered Steel record of 10 straight serves. The juniors finished strong, however, winning the third and final set.

Senior Logan Gilbert had a few words to say about this years game, "This game was rigged and we should've won," along with, "I didn't have fun. It would've been fun if we won." In contrast, senior Chase Vanmiddlesworth said, "It was fun and a great experience."



Left: Ty Mims hits a big spike to score the juniors a big point.

Right: Rosendo Garcia serves for the seniors as they try to come from behind.

(Photo credit: C-S Publications)



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