

STUDENT POWERED MEDIA

SOUTH SALEM HIGH SCHOOL

CLYPIAN

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PHONE POUCHES?

PHONE POUCHES SOON MIGHT
BE IMPLEMENTED AT SOUTH

RED & WHITE NIGHT

NEW HEAD BASKETBALL
COACH



THE CL



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What Does Your Spotify Top Artist Say About You?

By Ben Coven

Taylor Swift

I'm not as much of a Taylor Swift hater as I used to be, but I think those who have her as their top artist could branch out a little. I like some of her songs, but there's also probably better uses of your time out there.

I respect the casual Swiftie, but die-hard fans can get pretty cringey. With the Eras Tour this year, it makes sense if her numbers spiked in your Wrapped. Still, there's better music—even within her genre.

Playboi Carti

Playboi Carti might be one of the most overrated artists right now. I won't lie—I enjoy a few of his tracks—but I'm not a fan of the mumble rap or "Opium" aesthetic that surrounds him. The only acceptable album to cite is *Die Lit*, his sophomore project. Beyond that, if Carti is your top artist, I have to question your taste.

Fans who embrace the "Opium" aesthetic need to stop—it doesn't look good.

The Weeknd

The Weeknd makes good music, but he's the most basic choice for a top artist. As Spotify's second-most-streamed artist, having him in your Wrapped isn't uncommon. Still, it might be time to try something new.

Your favorite ice cream flavor is probably vanilla, and you likely wear Air Force 1s daily.

Kendrick Lamar

Kendrick Lamar had a big year, from his beef with Drake to the release of his album *GNX*, which is easily in contention for album of the year. Having Kendrick as your top artist is a valid choice.

That said, the bandwagon fans can get annoying. But if Kendrick is your top artist, you're probably a longtime listener—not someone who jumped on after the beef. However, if your top song is "Not Like Us," maybe uninstall Spotify. It's a solid diss track, but listening to it on repeat is a little much.

Tyler, the Creator

Having Tyler, the Creator in your Spotify Wrapped means one of two things: you either jumped on the bandwagon after his latest album, or you're a longtime fan. If you're one of the newer fans, you need to calm down—especially if you can't name another album. And to those of you with Chromakopia profile pictures featuring your name in the font, please stop.

For the die-hard fans, I respect your commitment, but you also tend to push the narrative that Tyler is the GOAT (he's not).

Ed Sheeran

If you're still listening to Ed Sheeran in 2024, you might want to reconsider your music choices. Sheeran has consistently put out mediocre music for years, and it's surprising he remains so popular. He's currently among Spotify's top 10 most-listened-to artists. If Sheeran was your top artist in 2019, that's understandable—but after that, it's a little odd.



Drake

Being a Drake fan in 2024 must be tough. After releasing a lackluster album last year and losing a public beef—where people still call him a predator because one of the last tracks released—sticking with Drake is a challenge. Drake's music has always been inconsistent. His bloated albums have about a 15% success rate when it comes to good songs. If Drake is still your top artist in 2024, I question your taste but admire your loyalty.

Kanye West

Plenty of people still have Kanye as their top artist, and with good reason. But to be honest die-hard Kanye fans are easily some of the worst fans to talk about music to. His music is great, but calm down—he's not the GOAT. Listening to Kanye in 2024 has only gotten harder. Even putting aside his controversial political takes, he released two mediocre solo projects this year. If Kanye is your top artist, I respect it—but take your ego down a little bit.

Billie Eilish

While Billie Eilish wouldn't be my first pick, I commend her for staying relevant over the years. Her music appeals to a wide demographic, though I wouldn't be thrilled if she dropped a new album. Her work feels a bit overplayed, but she's a unique voice in pop. Not gonna judge you for this pick.

Eminem

Eminem was my top artist in middle school, which sums up how I view his current listeners. For someone who hasn't released a great album in over 20 years (The Eminem Show), it's shocking he still has so many fans. About 80% of his discography is garbage. If you're still listening to Eminem this much, it's time to expand your horizons. I did that five years ago and realized almost everyone makes better music.

Sabrina Carpenter

Sabrina Carpenter has been the breakout artist of the year, climbing the charts and selling out her tour. It's easy to see why so many people have her in their Wrapped. Carpenter excels in her genre and is one of the most valid artists to have as your top pick—especially compared to others like Taylor Swift. While her music isn't my style, I respect it.

Frank Ocean


This is my most biased take—Frank Ocean was my top artist this year, with over 50,000 minutes of listening, I'm a pretty big fan, so I think having Frank as your top artist is one of the most valid choices. Even though Frank hasn't released an album since 2016, his discography remains stellar. If Frank Ocean is your top artist, we'd probably get along.

Sza

I probably have the most respect for the top listeners of Sza compared to any other artist on this list. Sza just makes overall high quality music and she dominates her genre. Sza has yet to miss on any of her music debuts, and I just really enjoy being around the type of people that listen to Sza.

Imagine Dragons

I absolutely can't stand Imagine Dragons. If they show up in your Spotify Wrapped, I'll instantly lose respect for you. How do you hear this TJ Maxx playlist music and decide it's worth a second listen.



Yondr Pouches: In the future of south?

Story by Sasha Williams

After Winter break, McKay, Sprague high schools and Straub, Stephens middle schools have implemented the use of Yondr pouches. These pouches use a magnetic lock to secure phones for the school day.

Phone Protocols

When students arrive at school they will put their phones, (along with smart watches and airpods), in the pouches to be electronically locked until the end of the school day. Then, students will go to unlocking stations to get their devices back. Students with documented medical needs will use pouches with a velcro seal to be able to use their phones or watches when they need to.

If there is an emergency, students will not be able to use phones and parents will be contacted via Parentsquare. There will also be unlocking stations ready if they are needed.

Other Schools Using Yondr Pouches

Salem-Keizer schools are not the first to use Yondr pouches in Oregon. North Clackamas school district has implemented the use of these pouches across its middle, high and charter schools since the fall of the 2024-2025 school year. The school district reports use of less drugs like vape being used because students can not use their phones to coordinate drug exchange meetups.

Students across schools using Yondr pouches have found ways to still use their phones, even with the metal locks. Some students put burner phones or rocks in the pouches and others have bought electronic unlocking kits that work on the pouches. "But at the end of the day, they are also hiding their phones all day and keeping it off and away. It is not really about the pouch. The pouch is a clear indicator that we are serious about the policy." Ryan Richardson, associate director of secondary and high school programs

If there is an emergency, "In an emergency, cell phones can actually be a distraction that prevent students from focusing on the teacher and following directions," The Sprague homepage said.

Effectiveness So Far

Some students say that the only reason the phone pouches are working are because the punishment for having phones out is detention or a \$30 fine if they get rid of it.

"The reason people are not using their phone is not because of the pouch necessarily. It is because of the policy that now you go to detention if you get caught," Ashwin Krishnaswamy, a senior at Mercer Island High School said.

A concern around the restriction of phones is the inability to be able to contact relatives for important news. However, in Salem-Keizer schools, students will still be able to use their school computers to email their parents. Or, if it is an emergency, students can call their parents using a phone at the front office.

Is Die Hard a Christmas movie?

Read each story then vote
who you agree with more!

Side by Valeria Ruiz

Of the many opinions centered around movies, the discussion behind whether Die Hard is a Christmas movie or not is amongst the most popular. Die Hard, directed by John McTiernan and featuring actor Bruce Willis, is an action-packed movie that has thrilling matters at hand. We're able to see the contents of heists, terrorism and overall violence within the movie.

"Die Hard's" association with Christmas is a stretch. The title itself implies mortality, hardly evoking the typical festive cheer. The film's explosive action and graphic violence clash with the traditional holiday atmosphere. While Die Hard is an iconic, thrilling movie, its tone and content does not align with the joy, warmth and togetherness of Christmas. Enjoy it with a father figure, but save it for a non-holiday movie night

Genuine Christmas movies center around topics of love, togetherness, tradition and childhood wonder, all topics in which Die Hard does not include. I argue that Die Hard is ultimately inappropriate to even consider as a holiday movie.

Though many argue it is as it takes place on Christmas, I believe it could have taken place during any time and still maintain its original contents and theme. Whereas Elf, Home Alone and a Christmas Carol are all films that could not keep the same storyline without being set during Christmas time.

At the 2018 "Comedy Central" roast, Bruce Willis settled the long-debated question of whether his iconic action film "Die Hard," is a Christmas movie.

"Die Hard is not a Christmas movie. It is a Die Hard movie," Willis said.

I believe that says enough about the film itself when even the leading actor will not label the film as a Christmas movie.

Side by Ben Coven

What defines a Christmas movie? At its core, a Christmas movie is one in which the plot revolves around it being Christmastime. The holiday is not just a backdrop; it is central to the story, shaping the characters, events and themes. Think about it: Without Christmas, there is no Home Alone, no A Christmas Carol, no Elf. Now let me ask you this—why does Die Hard, a film that fits this very definition, still face skepticism as a Christmas classic?

The entire story of Die Hard hinges on Christmas. John McClane, a New York cop, flies to Los Angeles on Christmas Eve to attend his estranged wife Holly's corporate Christmas party at Nakatomi Plaza. Their reunion—and his attempt to repair their marriage—provides the emotional weight of the film.

Without Christmas, there is no party for Hans Gruber and his band of thieves to infiltrate. Even the timing of the heist is significant—Gruber uses the holiday as a distraction, knowing fewer people would be in the building and that law enforcement would be slower to respond. Christmas isn't just window dressing; it is the foundation of the story.

The holiday provides not just the setting but the stakes and emotional resonance. Christmas drives every key element of the plot, from the timing of the heist to McClane's motivation to the ironic humor that permeates the film. By the definition of a Christmas movie—a story in which the plot revolves around it being Christmastime—Die Hard more than qualifies.

Christmas movies are not just about visuals; they're about meaning. They are stories of love, reconciliation, and redemption—qualities that Die Hard embodies. McClane's journey is about more than defeating terrorists; it is about reconnecting with his wife and putting his family back together.

Even skeptics should consider this: the creators of Die Hard have called it a Christmas movie. Director John McTiernan confirmed it was inspired by the redemption arc of classic Christmas tales. Screenwriter Steven E. de Souza argues that the film adheres to holiday traditions while offering a fresh twist.

And audiences? They have already made up their minds. Every December, Die Hard returns to streaming queues, TV marathons and holiday parties. The debate is not whether it is a Christmas movie anymore; it is why anyone still needs convincing.



Vote Here

WINTER HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

Story by Savannah Poage

Boxing Day

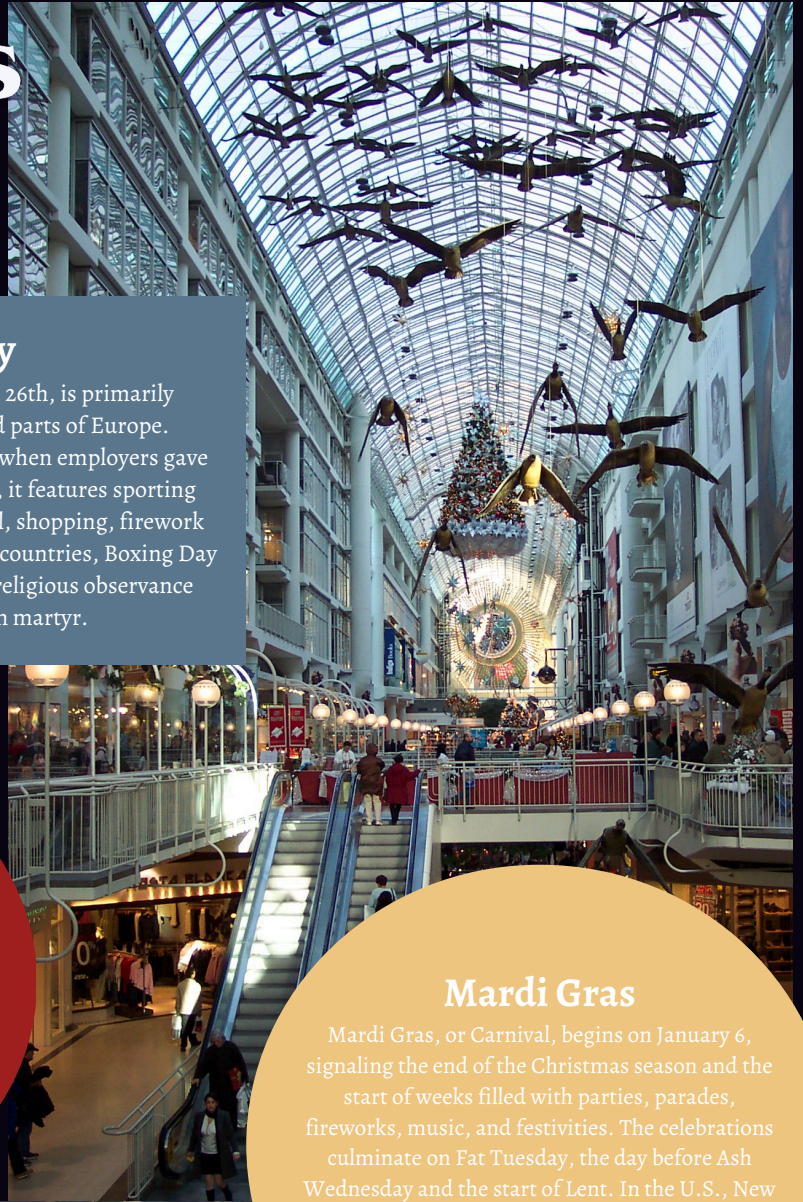
Boxing Day, observed on December 26th, is primarily celebrated in the U.K., Canada, and parts of Europe. Originally a day off for servants, it was when employers gave them a "Christmas box" or gift. Today, it features sporting events, especially international football, shopping, firework shows, and a break from work. In some countries, Boxing Day is also known as St. Stephen's Day, a religious observance honoring the first Christian martyr.

Christmas

Christmas, the yearly Christian celebration of Christ's birth, is celebrated on December 25 in the Western Church. Christmas is also a cultural holiday celebrated across the globe by traditions of exchanging gifts, festive decorations, and gatherings with family and friends. It often involves secular traditions such as decorating a Christmas tree, enjoying holiday meals, and celebrating with music, lights, and other seasonal activities.

Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras, or Carnival, begins on January 6, signaling the end of the Christmas season and the start of weeks filled with parties, parades, fireworks, music, and festivities. The celebrations culminate on Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. In the U.S., New Orleans hosts the largest celebration, with street parades led by marching bands and masquerade balls. Carnival is also celebrated in places like Rio de Janeiro and Venice, Italy, among others.





Diwali

Diwali, also known as the festival of Lights, is a holiday from Hindu origin and is a widely celebrated holiday across India. Diwali starts on the 15th of the months of Kartik in the Hindu calendar, which is usually in October or November. To honor the goddess Lakshmi, who is known to bring wealth and good fortune and destroy anything negative in someone's life, they light clay lamps in celebration.

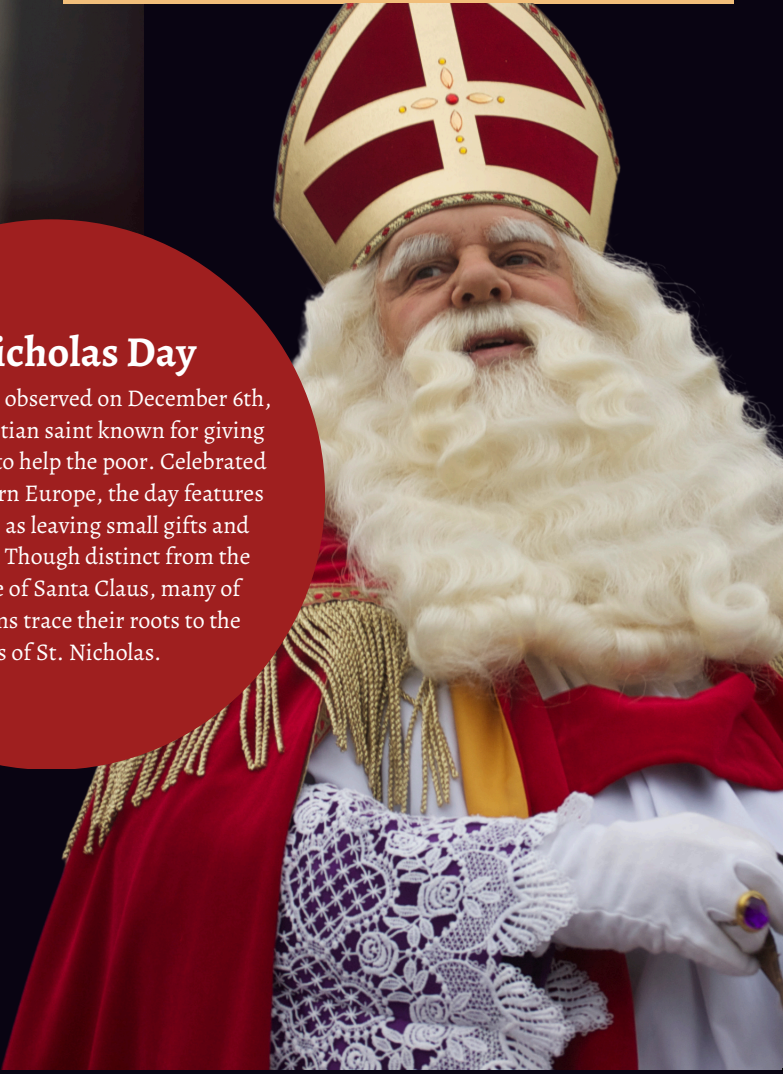


Hanukkah

The Jewish festival of Hanukkah is an eight-night celebration that recognizes the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem during the Maccabean Revolt. It starts on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar, which normally lands in the months of November and December. Traditions of this holiday include customary foods, the lighting of the menorah, and eight nights of parties, games, and gifts.

St. Nicholas Day

St. Nicholas Day, observed on December 6th, honors the Christian saint known for giving away his wealth to help the poor. Celebrated widely in northern Europe, the day features traditions such as leaving small gifts and treats in shoes. Though distinct from the modern figure of Santa Claus, many of Santa's customs trace their roots to the stories of St. Nicholas.



WHY ARE SCHOOLS Banning Books?

Story by Isla Lute

According to PEN, (Poets, Essayists and Novelists) America the nonprofit organization that promotes freedom and expression for any writers over 10,000 books were banned in public schools during the 2023-2024 school year, That increase was nearly triple the number from the 2022-2023 school year, when PEN America recorded 3,362 book bans nationwide.

PEN America defines a book ban as any action taken against a book based on its content and as a result of parent or community challenges, administrative decisions, or in response to direct or threatened action by lawmakers or other government officials, that leads to a previously accessible book being either completely removed from availability to students, or where access to a book is restricted or diminished.

School book bans can take a variety of forms and can include prohibitions on books in libraries or classrooms and a range of other restrictions, some of which may be temporary. An example would be, if a book were previously available to all students, it would now require a parent's permission to read. It could also become restricted to a higher grade level than educators initially determined. Both of those are an example of a book ban. Sometimes books are removed from shelves for "review". 60% of the books that have been banned in libraries are considered to be Young Adult (YA) books, while only 30% of the banned books are considered adult books.

Book bans continue to target books featuring LGBTQ+ themes or LGBTQ+ characters, sexual experiences or sexual abuse, rape, characters of color and books about race or racism.

44% of banned books have themes or instances of violence and physical abuse. Some popular books that have been banned that include this theme are *Carrie* by Stephan King, *Fight Club* by Chuck Palahniuk, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins *Lord Of The Flies* by William Golding, and *Captain Underpants* by Dav Pilky.

38% cover topics on health and wellbeing for students (*This includes content on mental health, bullying, suicide, substance abuse, as well as books that discuss sexual wellbeing and puberty.*) Some examples are *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher, *Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank, *Crank* by Ellen Hopkins and *A Stolen Life: A Memoir* by Jaycee Dugard.

30% are books that include instances or themes of grief and death. Some books that have been banned for those reasons are *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner and *On My Honor* by Marion Dane Bauer.

30% include characters of color or discuss race and racism. Popular books with these themes are *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain, *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, *Fallen Angels* by Walter Dean Myers, *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinback, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and *Whale Talk* by Chris Crutcher.

26% of these books present LGBTQ+ characters or themes. Some of those books are *This Book Is Gay* by Juno Dawson, *Athletic Shorts: Six Short Stories* by Chris Crutcher, *Drama* by Raina Telgemeier, *Prince & Knight* by Daniel Haack illustrated by Stevie Lewis, and *This One Summer* by Mariko Tamaki illustrated by Jillian Tamaki.

24% have detailed sexual experiences between characters. Some books are *Fifty Shades of Grey* by E.L. James, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky, *Twilight* by Stephanie Myer and *What My Mother Doesn't Know* by Sonya Sones.

17% of the books mention teen pregnancy, abortion, or sexual assault. Some examples are *Detour For Emmy* by Marilyn Reynolds and *An American Tragedy* by Theodore Dreiser. (put website for sources at the end)

"The most powerful form of book banning comes from the person that buys the books. Here at South, we try to not shy away from the purchase of controversial books, because we believe that in a free society, all points of view need to be heard. We are very lucky at South because we have the support of admin at the building and district levels, as well as the Oregon State Legislature."

- Scott Rick, librarian at South Salem High School



Social Media & Perception

Story by Brennea Atchley

Overconsumption of Social Media in Society

An average person spends about two and a half hours on social media every day. It can be used professionally, socially or for entertainment purposes. Studies have shown that social media can lead to mental health issues.

Carl Rogers' Theory

According to the Carl Rogers' theory of personality, every person has an instinct to improve themselves. This is known as self-actualization, believing that the ideal self and self-image are in line with each other. The ideal self is someone's ideal of what they want to be. It can be created by outside influences, personal experiences and or beliefs. Social media becomes an influence in people's lives, it is used to gather ideas, communicate and publish your accomplishments. The amount of social media used per day can increase the amount of influence consumed.

Self Actualization

Self-actualization can cause people to have a critical inner voice. Every person has a negative view of themselves, one way or another. This could be through key components such as their job, social life, interests and family interactions. Throughout time, social media has started to create an uprising in communities. This allows people to believe that social media is something they must interact with. Recently, job postings for positions, such as writers or artists, require you to have a "strong social presence."

In a study by Scope, almost half of the 1,200 18-34 year old participants felt unattractive or unaccomplished when looking at their social media feed. This creates self-doubt in one's self by comparing themselves to the people they see on their feed. While this self-doubt may occur, the amount of dopamine received from social media causes people to use it more.

Negative Side Effects

The overuse of social media can lead to depression, anxiety, jealousy, loneliness or feeling of isolation, self-harm, poor body image, eating disorders, disrupted sleep and increases the fear of missing out. Having one of these symptoms could cause someone to develop further symptoms or cause different health related issues.

A common type of depression caused by overuse of social media is smiling depression, which is someone who has depression, but does not appear to have it. 6.7% of the population is diagnosed with smiling depression.

Make a Change

A factor is the inconsistency of what they notice between their self image and social media selves. It is recommended that people should cut down their social media time to 30 minutes, which will reduce any symptoms.

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New Head Coach Kip Ioane

Story by Savannah Poage

First Year as the Boys Basketball Varsity Head Coach

Going into the Winter sport season, a new varsity head coach, Kip Ioane, takes the reins for the boys basketball team.

With 4 years of collegiate play and 25 years of coaching experience at Willamette University, a Division 3 college, Ioane starts his first season coaching at the high school level.

Ioane's approach to coaching goes beyond wins and losses. He views his role as an opportunity to shape the lives of all his players, both on and off the court.

"The reason I coach is to utilize the platform with young men to try and help them become better human beings. Coaching gives you the opportunity to impact young people for the rest of their lives if you do it the correct way."

For Ioane, success isn't measured solely by the scoreboard. It's about growth—both individually and as a team.

This is Ioane's first year coaching high school basketball, though he brings 14 ½ years of head coach experience of the men's basketball team at Willamette University.

In the end, the outcome of the entire program means more than what the scoreboard says, but how they reflect the values and community at South.

"I would like the program to be representative of the school. Both in how hard we play how connected we are together and for it to be something the school can rally around. That is my ultimate goal."

"My only goal for me is growth. Growth on the court, growth off the court, growth in the classroom. I just want us to improve everyday. If we target our goal as continued growth, it doesn't matter what the scoreboard says, you can still continue.

- Kip Ioane

As the boys' basketball season tips off, Head Coach Ioane emphasizes that success will be defined not just by wins and losses but by the unity and character of the team

"Our measurement of success will not be purely from the scoreboard but from our representation and connection as a team."

To see dates, times, locations and themes for the boys basketball games and any other winter sport team at South, check out the Clt'ian's instagram page for more information!



photo taken by Sam Mendez includes the boys and girls varsity basketball teams and girls varsity managers



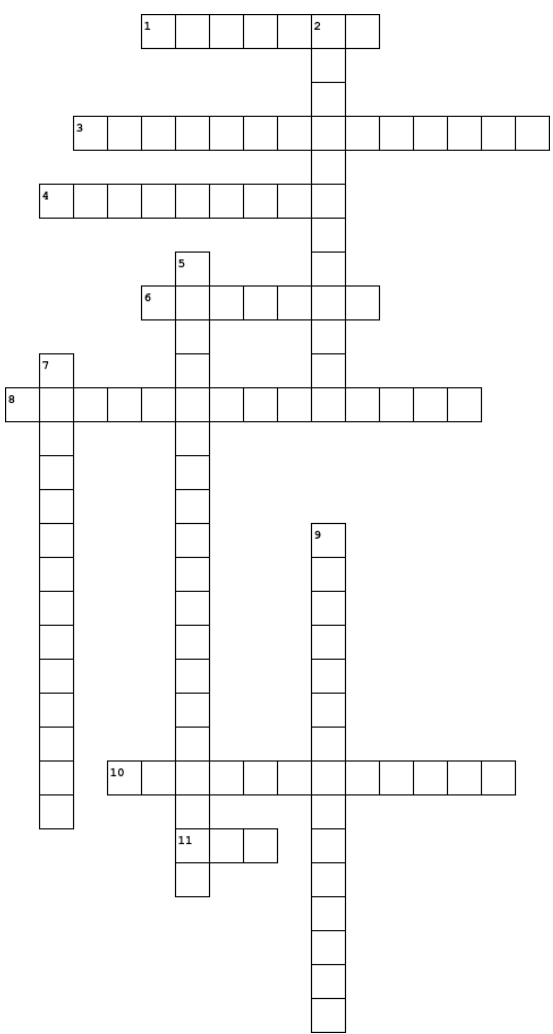
Red and
White Night

Photos by Jasmyn Cooper, Noelle Miller,
and Arianna Guzman



ICE SKATING

Drawn by Noelle Miller



Christmas Movie Crossword

Across

- 1. Reindeer finds his way on santas sleigh
- 3. Man takes over as santa
- 4. Child defends his house on christmas
- 6. Terrorist threat during christmas party
- 8. Four people put on a christmas show to get a business running again
- 10. small toy company ceo gets a once-in-a-lifetime offer
- 11. Santas worker explores new york

Down

- 2. Child goes on train during christmastime
- 5. Parade Santa claims to be the real one
- 7. man finds his christmas spirit
- 9. "Youll shoot your eye out"

Answers on back cover

Give us feedback!





A Christmas Carol

photos taken by Lily Squires and Savannah Poage



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1. Rudolph
2. Polar Express
3. Santa Clause
4. Home Alone
5. Miracle on 34th Street
6. Die Hard
7. Christmas Carol
8. White Christmas
9. A Christmas story
10. Christmas Ceo
11. Elf