

# THE GROVE GAZETTE

Selinsgrove Area High School Student Newspaper

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## Future Business Leaders Invade Selinsgrove

By Liz Whitmer

On Friday, December 18, Selinsgrove Area High School’s Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) hosted their Regional Conference at Susquehanna University.

Mrs. Donna Gavitt is the well-respected advisor for the FBLA and a favorite of many students. When asked

about his experience in the FBLA, senior Dylan Whitmer replied, “FBLA is a great thing because...you learn a lot and get to be part of something that can help you... With a great group and the guidance of Mrs. Gavitt, you are almost always having fun doing it.”

This will be Mrs. Gavitt’s last year as the advisor before retirement; however, she is hoping to go out with a bang as this is the largest FBLA membership in Selinsgrove’s history. The year got off to a good start at the Regional Conference.

Starting at 8:30 Friday morning, 30 Selinsgrove FBLA members, along with members from several other schools, arrived at Susquehanna University for the all-day event which helped the participants learn more about the business world. By the end of conference the students left with greater knowledge about how to succeed at business and several students earned awards through various competitions.

Throughout the day, there were several workshops where students could learn important business ethics and skills. Students also had the option of competing as an individual or a team in business related competitions.

To prepare for these competitions, online tests were taken over the course of several days. There were different types of tests taken in teams, one of which, the Securities and Risk Management test, was taken by the senior team consisting of Nick Conrad, David Klinger, and Angelo Martin.

Awards were won in nine different categories by Selinsgrove High School students. A complete list of winners can be seen in the box to the right.

This year’s FBLA Regional Conference was a success. The future of business can be found here in Selinsgrove.



Photo by Donna Gavitt

Selinsgrove FBLA member pause at the Regional conference before moving to another session.

FBLA Regional  
Conference  
Winners

Student Name	Finish	Category
Natalia Brown	First Place	Public Speaking II
Macie Hollenbach	First Place	Accounting I
Paige Hepner	Second Place	Accounting I
Chase Salter	First Place	Accounting II
Jessica Smith	Second Place	Accounting II
Alexis Lindsey	Fourth Place	Accounting II
Marlo Ptacin	First Place	Business Calculations
Emma Lewis	Fifth Place	Business Law
Violet Ivankina	Fifth Place	Introduction to Business
Oceana Barillaro	Third Place	Intro to Information Technology
Alyssa Landis	First Place	Parliamentary Procedure
Michael Huggins	First Place	Parliamentary Procedure
Elizabeth Perkinson	First Place	Parliamentary Procedure
Kevin Dressler	First Place	Parliamentary Procedure
David Klinger	Second Place	Securities & Investments
Angelo Martin	Fourth Place	Securities & Investments

### Grove Gazette Editorial Staff

News Editors: Savanna Foor & Dan Napsha

Sports Editor: Angelo Martin

Opinion/Editorial Editor: Isabel Bailey

Graphics Editor: Lindsey Trusal

The *Grove Gazette* is a student organized newspaper. If you are interested in working for the *Grove Gazette* as a writer, editor, or photographer, please join us during the first half of lunch on **Thursday, January 7th** in Room 222 for our next meeting. You can also email Mr. Switala at [wswitala@seal-pa.org](mailto:wswitala@seal-pa.org) if you cannot make the meeting.

# Holiday Spirit Week Decks the Halls

By Savanna Foor

With the holiday season in full swing, the Selinsgrove High School Student Council held a holiday-themed spirit week to bolster school spirit.

Last Monday, December 14, the week kicked off with a red and green day. Students were encouraged to wear all the red and green clothing they had to emphasize the general colors of the holidays. The history of these colors is directed more towards Christmas than any other holiday around this time (Hanukkah and Kwanza), to symbolize Holly Berries and Christmas Trees.



Photo by Savanna Foor

Senior Fanny Mayeur, and juniors Emily Johnson and Sydney Reibschied in their red and green.

On Tuesday, the students partook in pajama day. The school saw everything from festive onesies, to casual sweatpants with slippers. Pajamas are often used for holiday themes because of how often we have seen them being worn in holiday movies and other entertainment. They represent the feeling of comfort and fun, two words that can be used to represent the holidays for most. In the movie the *Polar Express*, the main character, though never given a name, entertains us with his journey, all while wearing pajamas.



Photo by Alexis Auman

Seniors Kaelley Krouse and Lindsey Auman wear their tiger onesies on PJ day

Wednesday was a white out. Everyone was encouraged to wear an item of white clothing to represent the snowy season. With the lack of snow our area has seen this year, the participants gave everyone a glimpse of what is to come in the months ahead with the large turnout in white.

One of the liveliest days came on Thursday, character day. Faculty and students dressed up as their favorite holiday character or item. A common sighting in the halls were Santa Hats. Also seen quite frequently were reindeer antlers. Senior Lilly Keefer, the Student Council's Vice President, spoke to us about how the week had been going so far: "The turnout for everyone dressing up has been good, and next year we hope to continue this new tradition and get even more involved. We tried not to emphasize just on Christmas and get every holiday involved."

The week ended on Friday, which happened to be the biggest turnout: ugly sweater day. The majority of the student body contributed by decking the halls with unfortunate and funny looking sweaters, perfect for the day's theme. Ugly sweaters have always been around, but became a trend around the early 1980's when Bill Cosby appeared on national television several times during the holidays, while sporting the unusual apparel.



Photo by Sydney Reibschied

Senior Fanny Mayeur, and juniors Emily Johnson and Sarah Long wear their ugliest sweaters.

In the past 30 years, our society has also seen a burst of thrift stores and the Salvation Army, where most people take their unwanted and sometimes unusual clothing. This has led to the availability of more ugly sweaters and prompted today's largest holiday rage.

The Selinsgrove Area Student Council appreciated all those who participated and offered prizes for those who were dressed up and could answer various holiday themed questions during the week.

# Other Holidays Given Little Attention

by Nia Thomas

In December, most of America, from the retail industry to food establishments, focuses on Christmas; however, other holidays (based in different faiths and cultures) pepper the calendar and are becoming commonly celebrated in the United States.

Find out about a few of these holidays, along with their origins, traditions and date of celebrations:

**December 6:** This day is known as Saint Nicholas Day, a holiday celebrated in both eastern Christian and Western Christian countries. The holiday itself came from Alsace and Lorraine in France where Saint Nicholas is the patron saint. The holiday focuses on the saint, a bishop of the fourth century who practiced in the Asia Minor town of Myra. The saint was known for bringing gifts to children and children were known to leave out treats for Saint Nicholas' horses, all activities that are practiced by western Santas. Westernized Santa Clauses were, in part, based on this saint.

**December 12:** The Feast of the Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on this day, mainly by Catholics of Mexican descent. The holiday originated in 1531. As the story goes, the Virgin Mary visited a peasant named Juan Diego twice and told him to ask the local bishop to build a church on the site she visited. This request eventually led to the creation of the world's most visited Catholic pilgrimage site, the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and one of the most famous images of the Virgin Mary. Mexican Catholics usually cook traditional dishes, as well as decorate the table with flowers that are bright red, pink, blue, and green. They also recite the prayer, "To Our Lady" written by the Pope John Paul II.

**December 6-14:** Hanukkah is celebrated over this eight day period by people of Jewish faith. It is a festival that is used to celebrate light over darkness. It began when the Jews in old Jerusalem were being forcibly converted to the religion of their captives, the Syrian-Greeks. A small army of Jews destroyed their ene-



St. Nicholas Day is celebrated in Selinsgrove's French classes: Students created their own crafty shoes and then placed them out for candy before December 6th.

**December 8:** This date marks Bodhi Day, a day celebrating the enlightenment of the Buddha. The holiday came about when Buddha achieved enlightenment after meditating and fasting for forty-nine days under a Bodhi tree. There are many ways to celebrate... The first is to eat a bowl of rice and milk, which is based on the story that a woman fed Buddha the meal after finding him passed out. Another tradition is to turn on colorful lights in or outside your house for thirty days after December 8th to represent the Buddha's enlightenment. One can also buy a potted focus plant that needs to be decorated with lights that stay lit for thirty days and hung with three ornaments. The plant represents the Bodhi plant, the lights are for enlightenment, and the ornaments are the Three Jewels. However, the most common tradition is to light a candle for thirty days, as this also is used to signify enlightenment.

my and when they regained control of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, a candle was lit with a one day supply of oil. It managed to burn for eight days; thus, Jews light a new candle every night of the eight days of Hanukkah. Other traditions include playing the dreidel (a spinning top), eating foods fried in oil, adding additional prayers to their daily set, and gifting children with money.

**December 24:** On this day, Muslims of the Shia branch celebrate Milad-un-Nabi (The Prophet Muhammad's Birthday). Muslims of the Sunni branch celebrate this event five days later. For some Muslims, celebrating this day is not accepted since some claim it to contradict Islamic law. For those who celebrate the event, it is normal to have open-air festivals, as well as to tell the life and teachings of the Prophet. Other traditions include decorating the mosques and/or streets and giving meals to guests.

# Donald Trump Faces Backlash but Maintains Lead after Controversial Comments about Muslims

By Daniel Napsha

Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump faced fierce censuring after he proposed a temporary but “total and complete” ban of Muslims entering the United States.

In a statement, Trump called for prohibiting immigration “until our country’s representatives can figure out what is going on,” in response to the recent fatal shooting in San Bernardino, California administered by members of the radical Islam terrorist group, ISIS. His proposal follows previous suggestions for further surveillance of mosques in an effort to fight terrorism.



Republican Presidential Candidate Donald Trump is in hot water once again for discriminatory remarks against the Muslim community

These recent assertions follow a long line of similar remarks made by Trump during his campaign so far. The candidate previously stirred controversy with his

comments about immigration and border control, along with his thoughts on women and other minorities, all of which were deemed condescending and prejudiced by the media and public.

Trump’s proposal to ban Muslims was met with widespread condemnation from his Democratic opponents, world leaders, and even members of his own party. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan notably denounced Trump, saying, “This is not conservatism... This is not what this party stands for, and more importantly, what this country stands for...” Additionally, Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai described the rhetoric as “full of hate” and “wrong”.

At Selinsgrove, too, Trump faces the backlash of unimpressed would-be voters. Junior Jacob Bodinger evoked, “What Donald Trump says, it’s the complete opposite of what our country needs. It’s the same rhetoric used by the Nazis and the medieval Crusaders: to blame an entire religion. We should be focusing on fighting the terrorist group, not the religion.”

However, Trump is gaining a following amongst receptive voters. Numerous national surveys reported support for banning Muslim immigration hovering around 30%. Still, Trump’s lead in GOP polls persists, while projections of a national election between Trump and leading Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton are remarkably split in half.



## Come to Improv/Drama Night!

**Where: Selinsgrove Library**  
**When: 7-8 pm Every Tuesday**



All are welcome to Improv/Drama night, come if you want to experience some spontaneity and fun!

It is an hour of Improvisation and On-the-Spot Acting. No previous experience needed, just a willingness to have fun and act crazy!

Sponsored by the NHS

# Christmas Light Must-Sees of 2015

By Lindsey Trusal

During the holiday season, many families enjoy driving around Selinsgrove and its surrounding areas to admire the many Christmas lights that illuminate the streets and bring joy to others.

These homeowners work hard at putting up these lights and decorations while bearing the harsh winter weather and deserve some recognition. Below is a short list of locations which will allow you to explore new locations displaying beautiful Christmas lights that you may not have seen before, bringing a pleasant change to your family’s holiday.

The first stop to make is barely outside of downtown Selinsgrove. Leave the high school and head towards the new Weis Markets on Route 204, heading towards the Meadowview Estates on the left. Be sure to stop at 6 Meadowview Dr. There you will see a candy cane lane and a dancing Santa Claus in his winter workshop. The homeowners welcome anyone to stop and take a closer look at Santa and the many beautiful lights. Don’t just stop there; if you want to see more keep driving around Meadowview Estates because you will not be disappointed.

The next stop to head to is in the development of Salem Glenn, which is just over the hill from the Meadowview Estates. There are two

houses here that really catch the eye: the first is 15 Farmhouse Lane and the second is 128 Salem Glenn Blvd. Both houses have displays with bright lights and fun decorations.

Continuing on this aesthetic journey, get back onto Route 204 and head toward Heimbach’s farm (just across the Camelback Bridge). On the left one can find Monroe Manor, home to many flashy Christmas lights. The first house to seek is 307 Augusta Dr, which has a combination of many features common in Christmas lights. One of these features is the new spotlights made up of green and red dots that shine across the house and creating an interesting effect.

The next house to visit in that neighborhood is 148 Augusta Dr, which has a lot of classy lights decorating the structure. If you’re into Christmas lawn ornaments, head up into the upper side of the development to Meadowbrook Dr, where at the house numbered “23”, you can find tons of them, with beautiful lights and a star on the roof of the house. It’s quite a sight to see. The last key house on the list is 8 Meadowbrook Drive, another nicely decorated house in the neighborhood.

Taking an evening drive to see the local displays can put one in the holiday mood, just remember to be respectful of the homeowners’ privacy while eye-guzzling the displays.

- 6 Meadowview Dr,  
Selinsgrove, PA  
17870, USA

15 Farm House Ln,  
Selinsgrove, PA  
17870, USA

128 Salem Glenn  
Blvd, Selinsgrove,  
PA 17870, USA

307 Augusta Dr,  
Selinsgrove, PA  
17870, USA

148 Augusta Dr,  
Selinsgrove, PA  
17870, USA

23 Meadowbrook  
Dr, Selinsgrove, PA  
17870, USA

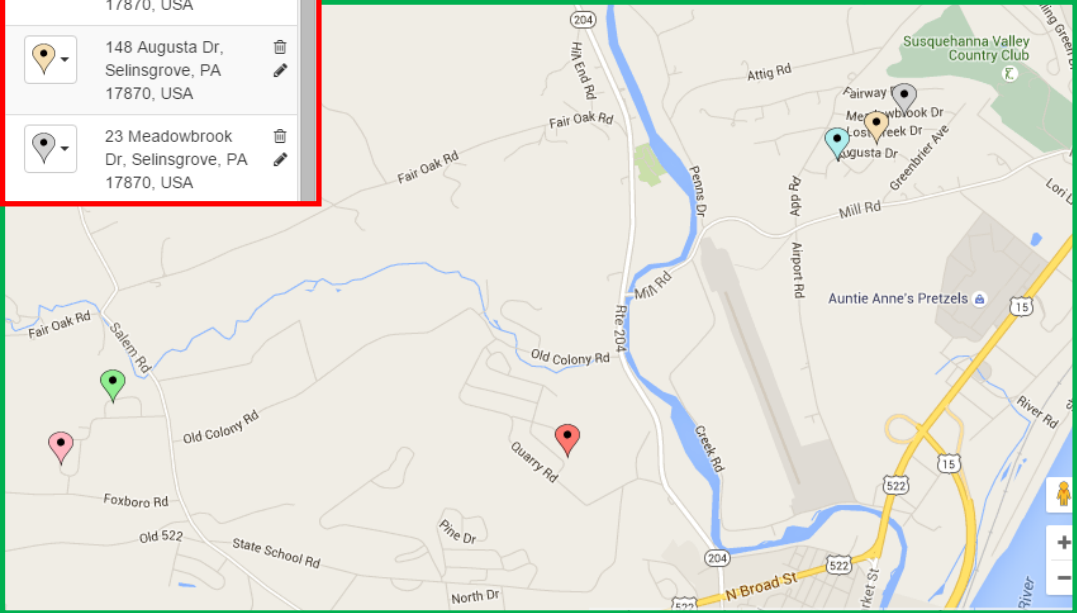


Photo by Lindsey Trusal

Arguably the best holiday decorated homes in the area every year and a “must see”: 6 Meadowview Dr.

# SPORTS

## Pinning Down the Wrestling Team

By Angelo Martin

Another season is underway for the Selinsgrove wrestling team under sixth year head coach Seth Martin. Returning a plethora of talent in many weight classes, the Seals will have several wrestlers that will headline the central Susquehanna Valley.

Selinsgrove has opened their season, 2-0 with dual meet wins over Milton and Williamsport. In the team's Penn Manor tournament, senior Andrew Boob took home the gold in the 220 lb. weight class, with junior Bryce Reichenbach and senior Aaron Boob also taking home 5<sup>th</sup> place finishes in their respective weight classes.

Senior standout and two-time state tournament contender Andrew Boob will look to be the team's dominating force all season. Boob enters the season very close to the heralded 80 win mark, and will also look to again contend in the PIAA state wrestling tournament in March.

"Last year I was able to win a match in the state tournament. I want to get there again this year and build off of what I achieved last season," noted the highly touted Andrew Boob.

While Andrew Boob often gets much of the ink in the newspapers, his brother Aaron Boob, a senior as well, will also be a wrecking force in the Heartland Conference. A career 32-25, Aaron burst onto the scene last year finishing with a record of 21-10, good for second on the team in wins next to his brother Andrew.

"I have been wrestling with my brother for over 10 year now. It's been incredible to see his results as I have seen firsthand all the work he puts in as we train together," said the elder Boob brother Andrew.

In the lower weight classes, the Seals are loaded with underclass talent. Leading the way will be juniors Bryce Reichbach and Garrett Campbell. Reichbach has started the season with a record of 6-3, including two pins. Campbell, entering the season late due to football, has jumped out a 2-1 record.

With the season very young, many in the area will look for the Selinsgrove wrestling team to have a commanding presence throughout District IV.



Photo by Kaylee Rishell

Senior Andrew Boob mauls another opponent at the Penn Manor tournament

## Seals Bowling Hopes to Strike again

By Marley Sprenkel

As the season rolls around for Selinsgrove boy's and girl's bowling, a few team members step up to the plate to help lead and guide the team to victories.

For the girl's team, the captains are seniors Katie Pauling and Paetyn Klinger. Klinger and Pauling are both key bowlers for the team, along with Paetyn's sister, sophomore Piper Klinger. The girl's team has only had one match so far, where they tied against league opponent Mifflinburg.

"It is good having my sister on the team because I always have someone to look up to, and I always have someone pushing me to get better each practice," noted sophomore Piper Klinger.

The boy's team is currently 0-1 in the regular season, but won their scrim-

mage against Columbia Montour Vo Tech. Mifflinburg was able to take the win on Saturday, December 12, but the boys are far from done. Captains junior Steven Pomykalski and senior Hunter Bowersox lead the boy's team, and will be classified as key contributors to the team.

"Between the boy's and girl's team, there is a lot of talent on the Selinsgrove bowling team. There is no reason we shouldn't be a major contender in the Conference and District," said girl's captain Paetyn Klinger.

With the season just beginning for high school bowling teams, many in the area will look towards the Seals to be a strong competitor in the Heartland Conference and in District IV.

# Make or Break - Lady Seals Guard Play

By Angelo Martin

Having lost many key seniors from last year, the Lady Seals basketball team will look towards a junior guard duo to propel Selinsgrove into Heartland Conference and District IV contention.

With junior Samantha Rodkey, a two year starter at point guard, and fellow junior Savanna Foor, a starter since last year at the shooting guard position, Selinsgrove will boast one of the best backcourts in the Susquehanna Valley.



Sophomore Samantha Rodkey takes on a Mifflinburg defender

“Sam (Rodkey) and I really mesh well together on the court. Both of our games are slightly different, but I think we compliment each other very nicely at the guard positions,” explained Savanna Foor.

Led by head coach Tim Lauver, the Lady Seals are captained by the junior guard duo in Rodkey and Foor, as well as senior forward Emily Breheny. Rounding out the rest of the starting lineup is Marlo Ptacin, a sophomore at the forward position, and Maddie Schmouder, a junior at the final forward position. Marley Sprenkel, a freshman guard, will look to get the most minutes coming off the bench.

Through four games, the Lady Seals hold a record of 1-3, with their first win of the season coming against county rival Midd-West on December 19. While the season has not gotten off to a spectacular start, captains Foor, Rodkey, and Breheny have been bright spots for the Seals. Foor is averaging 11 points per game in four games, while Rodkey and Breheny have led the team in assists and rebounds respectively.

“Obviously, our season hasn’t started the way we have wanted. We lost two very close games to Jersey Shore and Mifflinburg, and just couldn’t execute on offense versus Danville. But, I think as we head into January, our team will start to put it together and have an identity as a team,” noted junior captain Sam Rodkey.

The Lady Seals will be back in action at home in the Elementary School Gymnasium on December 28 and 29 as they host their holiday tournament.

## Seals Basketball Looks to Run-and-Gun

By Sam Rodkey

The Selinsgrove Boys’ Basketball team began their season in their annual tip-off tournament on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at Berwick, where they fell short to Berwick and Western Wayne; however, they were missing some of their key players due to the football team still being in the playoffs.

Now that the team is at full strength they are hoping to begin a new successful season. Key returners at the guard position include senior Juvon Batts, and junior Brice Harro, both of whom will look to use their speed and work in transition for the Seals.

Down in the post, key returners include juniors Hunter George and Griffin Kirchner who will both use their height (6’5 and 6’4) as an advantage to score underneath for the Seals.

Last year the Seals had a successful season qualifying for the District IV playoffs. Unfortunately, they came up short against Milton in the first round of playoffs losing in the final seconds of the game. “It was tough losing a game like that last year but, we learned from it and it will help us improve this year,” explained senior guard Juvon Batts.

Along with the leadership and knowledge of the game provided from the

senior class, including Brenden Carner and Jacob Strickler, the underclassmen are expected to be vital to the success of the team as well. Sophomores Thomas Kerstetter, Connor van Zijil, Tony Dressler, Logan Leiby, and Drew Gabreilson all look to make an impact on the court.

After winning their first home game of the season on Friday night against Milton, the Seals will be back in action and looking for fan support as they take on their cross-river rivals on Tuesday night in our high school gym starting at 7:30pm.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Student Profiles

### Brianna Imholte: Senior, Female

Did you get anyone a gift this year? If so, what was it and who was it for? *I got my mom a necklace.*

With the temperatures predicted in the 60s this holiday season, do you think it could be the cause of global warming? *Global warming is an issue, and yes it could be the cause.*

If there was a surprise present in your locker what would you want it to be? *A cat.*

If you could put an inspirational poster up in the school what would it say? *Don't worry be happy.*

What is your New Years resolution? *To always be positive.*



### Keanan Wolfe: Junior, Male

Did you get anyone a gift this year? If so, what was it and who was it for? *Not yet but I plan on doing that soon.*

With the temperatures predicted in the 60s this holiday season, do you think it could be the cause of global warming? *No I do not.*

If there were a surprise present in your locker what would you want it to be? *Some type of candy.*

If you could put an inspirational poster up in the school what would it say? *Winners never quit and quitters never win.*

What is your New Years resolution? *To work towards getting accepted into Messiah College.*



### Grace Gilfert: Sophomore, Female

Did you get anyone a gift this year? If so, what was it and who was it for? *I got an amiibo for my brother.*

With the temperatures predicted in the 60s this holiday season, do you think it could be the cause of global warming? *I don't think it has anything to do with global warming.*

If there was a surprise present in your locker what would you want it to be? *Concert tickets.*

If you could put an inspirational poster up in the school what would it say? *School is cool.*

What is your New Years resolution? *To exercise more.*



### Isaiah Aikey: Freshmen, Male

Did you get anyone a gift this year? If so, what was it and who was it for? *Nope, but if I did I'd give Hunter Royer a hug.*

With the temperatures predicted in the 60s this holiday season, do you think it could be the cause of global warming? *Yes, but I like the warmth.*

If there was a surprise present in your locker what would you want it to be? *Money.*

If you could put an inspirational poster up in the school what would it say? *Live life to the fullest.*

What is your New Years resolution? *To get better grades.*



# Last Minute Gift Ideas!

Sydney Reibschied

Maybe you got so caught up baking warm gingerbread cookies or decking the halls that you did not remember to buy that special gift for this holiday season – have no fear!

While gift-giving may seem over-rated, it shows the giddy spirit of the holiday and can brighten someone's day. Here are some quick and easy gifts to find that almost anyone would enjoy.

1.) A new book- I recommend "Furiously Happy: A Funny Book about Horrible Things" By Jenny Lawson for a humorous person, or "Voices from Chernobyl" and "Boys in Zinc" by Svetlana Alexievich for a more emotional read.

2.) A new pair of nice warm socks- Cabin Socks seem to be very popular this season and can be found at Dicks Sporting Goods for a reasonable price. They can also be found in any department store making them a very convenient and cozy gift.



3.) A Coffee Gift Set- This is a simple idea for the typical coffee lover, who is not very hard to find considering many people seem to run on it! Sets of beans, mugs, gift cards, and more can be found at Dunkin' Donuts or Starbucks.

4.) Perfume or Cologne- Who doesn't love to smell good? A scent with a note saying "This reminded me of you" is an easy gift to give and can be a more sentimental gift. I recommend my two favorites "Daisy" by Marc Jacobs or "J'adore" by Christian Dior. This can be the perfect gift for anyone, and can be found at almost every department store or retailer.



4.) A scarf- while this December may not seem like the coldest winter to come, very soon a scarf will be a practical gift and always adds a touch of style while keeping you nice and warm. American Eagle has a good sale right now on scarves for both men and women.

It's not always about the materialistic items though. Generosity can come in many forms and there are some nontangible, meaningful gifts that mean more than the "wants" of this season. Here are some charities that you can donate to in the name of someone special to you.

1.) Donate to *St. Jude Children's Research Hospital* - all donations go toward treating childhood cancer and life threatening diseases.



2.) Donate to *Save the Children* - a donation provides a wide range of programs around the US and the world including training new mothers with prenatal care, supplying life-saving immunizations for young children, building schools, improving literacy and nutrition for children living in rural poverty.

3.) Donate a goat or a flock of ducks at [www.heifer.com](http://www.heifer.com). You can purchase livestock to give to people in poverty all around the world, helping them to provide income, food security, nutrition, as well as a new way of life.



4.) Donate to the *ASPCA* - Donations help the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) to stop animal neglect and change the lives of animals everywhere for the better.



# My Turn by Isabel Bailey

The other day a few of my friends and I were looking at the Selinsgrove districts school website, which showed a picture of a class of intermediate school kids staring at computer screens.

One of my friends immediately said that they wished our age group could have had more experience with computers when we were younger; he felt that we had been deprived of learning more technology at an early age, and that these younger students had an advantage over us. But as I looked again at the picture I thought to myself, *maybe we're the lucky ones.*

Technology is fast, efficient, and accurate—perfect. As a society, we want everything from our countertops to our love life to be perfect. We don't always find this in our personal lives so we seek a different source. Those sources are our phones, iPad, iPods, tablets, computers, TV's, Surfaces, and the list goes on.

Technology is perfect from the font type displayed on computers to the precise movement of the figure in a video game to the sleekness of iPads. But this attraction we have to technology stems even further than the appeal of perfection. Technology is programmed so that we keep coming back to the screen.

The light illuminating our computer as a new e-mail pops up is irresistible, the beckoning call of Netflix as the next episode loads within ten seconds of the last one is too enticing to ignore, and the notification that your friends want you to join them to play evil apples is unavoidable. "It's a compulsion, like an itch you have to scratch," says Jenn Hoffman, phoenix-based CEO of the J-brand group, "like Pavlov's dog, I hear the bell and I run to the Blackberry salivating. "

I wrote an article last year around this time that expressed my trepidation about getting a smart phone. My parents were on the fence about getting me one for my birthday but a few weeks later the glimmering iPhone was in my hands and I was thrilled. It's been over a year now and I have to say I enjoy it.

I like being able to quickly look something up online, get group messages, and listen to music. Sometimes I look at my phone too often, and perhaps I am too reliant on it. Just the other day I forgot my phone at home and realized this when I got to school. I have to admit I panicked, worried that I didn't have that instant source of connection, I felt vulnerable. This sense of

protection is what lures us to our screens and keeps our phones at the top list of our priorities.

Think about the two things you would grab if you had time to escape a fire from you home. Is one of them your phone? It's not impractical to say yes; it's actually a sensible thing to do because our phones and other gadgets offer us an immediate connection to others. We are addicted to this connection, it is something in us as humans that is too attractive to ignore.

We get a satisfaction from having the power to get in touch with whomever we want whenever we want, to look up a statistic or recipe in the blink of an eye, or to use our GPS to get us through the state of Texas. This connection is exemplified through social media as well—there is always a new hashtag to look at on Instagram, always someone else to follow. It is an instant feeling that you are linked to the world around you, but in reality, it's artificial.

Researchers are saying that technology is like a drug addiction. When people are away from their phone, they feel anxious and panicked. Many users experience mood lifts after they use their cell phones. Like an addiction and the constant need for more, there is more time needed to get joy of the phone each time they use it. Many addicts find themselves distant from their social and professional lives because of the use of technology.

Gambling, alcohol, and drug addiction are common, but many people will go through life without ever having one of those addictions. However, it seems as if any type of person from any type of background can get addicted to their phones, computers, iPads, and TVs. A screen is a magnet to humans, it is something even those who want to resist are drawn.

So when I look at the picture of a class of young children staring blankly, completely absorbed by the screen in front of them I am scared. While I admire technology for medicine and security, if I had to make a general statement I would say it is alienating people from real experiences and the natural world. Children are perhaps the smartest of us all, because they are able to notice the world with new eyes, they don't know the mold society has trapped many adults in.

These computers classes and promotion of technology inhibits creativity for kids. Games such as blocks and Legos, which train the brain to think and be creative, are played with less and less. Imaginative play can be stomped upon

*Continued on the next page*

# My Turn continued

by a computer game in which everything is already set up and a child doesn't need to use their imagination. There is less human interaction with technology, people turn to their phones instead of to each other.

The GPS, for example, is sort of sad. This may sound crazy but isn't it great to look at a map, and as much of a drag as it can be, to pull over to a gas station on a road trip and ask the person that you've never met before for directions? You meet a new person, and while maybe you'll never see them again, you have had an interaction with another living and breathing human. GPS's don't breathe—humans weren't made to merely stare at gadgets all day so that life could be easier.

So while maybe I won't be as quick at working with computers as someone ten years younger than me, I'm grateful for that. Everyone should have an equal opportunity to look and participate in the world; technology somewhat takes away from this opportunity, and in the end, the irony is that we are less connected to the world, not more.

Technology is part of our world, and I'm not asking everyone to throw away their phones and computers. So keep your phones and computers, but put them down for two hours a day and don't look at them. I'm going to try to do the same. Visit that gas station every once in awhile. The point is not to take technology out of our lives completely, but to be conscious of our use of it.

**The Grove Gazette is pleased to announce that freshman Jenna Eberly will be producing a monthly cartoon series for the paper. Her first installment is presented below.**

