by Anika Bahirwani and Aviti Jain

With the World Cup reaching its final stages, this year’s rendition in Qatar has provided fans all over the world with moments that will long live in history. For the first time, all three teams from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) qualified for the knockout stages. Beating Portugal in the first minute of added time in their last game, South Korea managed to reach the sixteenth round for the first time in twelve years. Surprisingly, dominating the “Group of Death,” Japan managed to beat European heavyweights Spain and Germany to qualify for the knockout stages as well.

The third team from the AFC, Australia, managed to reach the knockout rounds for only the second time in the nation’s history after surprising wins against Denmark and Tunisia. After dominating their group consisting of dark horses, Belgium, 2018 finalists Croatia, and a strong Canadian team, Morocco has surprised the whole world by reaching the semi-finals of the World Cup against defending champions France. Defeating two European giants, Spain on penalties and Portugal in regular time, Morocco became the first African nation to reach the semi-finals in the tournament’s history.

When asked about how she felt about the success of an underdog, junior Kathleen Kong said, “I really hope that Morocco wins. They’re the first African team to make it this far and they’re making history which is very cool. If they win that would be great.”

Whatever the outcome, history will be rewritten. If Morocco defeats the odds, they’ll become the first nation from Africa to ever win the prestigious tournament. If Croatia brings home the trophy, it will be the first World Cup that the nation has ever won in its thirty-one-year history. Unlike Croatia, France, which has already won the tournament in 2018, can become the first nation since Brazil in 1950 to defend their title as world champions. Finally, if Argentina puts their hands on the coveted prize, one of the world’s greatest players, Lionel Messi, can complete his trophy cabinet with the one prize that he is missing.

“I think Argentina is for sure going to win” said EBHS senior Emille Lee.

The 2022 World Cup: Days Leading Up to the Final

To this day, fans remain divided over the death of the beloved actor, Chadwick Boseman. Boseman played the ever-loved character, the Black Panther, in the Black Panther, creating a lasting impact on Marvel fans who admired T’Challa’s kindness and leadership. This film was a particularly important Marvel project, as the first Disney movie to handle the most significant death in an approaching franchise in a respectful and meaningful way. This film, Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, was released as one of the most anticipated movies of the year so far. A sequel to Marvel’s Black Panther, released in 2018, this film is set after the death of T’Challa, the king of Wakanda. Set in Wakanda, a fictitious futuristic African country which stores the most powerful metal in the world, vibranium, the new film follows the story of princess Shuri of Wakanda as she deals with the loss of her brother and figures out her place in the world, both as a person in grief and future successor of the throne.

A new character in this film, Namor, is a fan favorite from the comics. Namor is the ruler of the underwater kingdom known as Talokan, inspired by Mesoamerican heritage. The representation of Indigenous cultures was a crucial aspect of this project. Marvel fans around the world watched intently as Shuri and the Wakandans battled their emotional journeys and completed the deal with the daunting task of facing Namor. While the characters in the film experience grief from losing T’Challa, Black Panther fans grieved the loss of the beloved actor, Chadwick Boseman’s unexpected death shocked the world. The actor contributed greatly to developing the character of T’Challa, whose legacy still lives on today in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. In the first film he appeared in for Africa to be represented without a colonial lens by making certain that the Wakandans speak in African accents, as opposed to a British accent. He ensured that the first Black Panther movie would not contain any stereotypes about African culture.

“The movie did an incredible job setting the stage for Shuri’s transition into a more pivotal role in the MCU” said senior Emma Mohanty. “I also loved the way it paid respect to Chadwick Boseman. However, it did lack the action packed, classic Marvel cinematography we’re used to.”

The first Black Panther movie marked Marvel’s first approach to representing distinct cultures around the world through a superhero figure. This movie, along with Wakanda Forever set up a culturally inclusive dynamic in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, allowing for the introduction of numerous new characters from the comics of various religions, ethnicities, and sexual orientations.

Undoubtedly, Marvel’s Black Panther movies are cherished in the hearts of all fans and are some of Marvel’s most influential projects. People around the world wait eagerly to see the next steps Marvel will take in developing the characters of Black Panther: Wakanda Forever and how the push for inclusivity will present itself in future films.

On November 19, Marvel’s Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, was released as one of the most anticipated movies of the year so far. A sequel to Marvel’s Black Panther, released in 2018, this film is set after the death of T’Challa, the king of Wakanda. Set in Wakanda, a fictitious futuristic African country which stores the most powerful metal in the world, vibranium, the new film follows the story of princess Shuri of Wakanda as she deals with the loss of her brother and figures out her place in the world, both as a person in grief and future successor of the throne. A new character in this film, Namor, is a fan favorite from the comics. Namor is the ruler of the underwater kingdom known as Talokan, inspired by Mesoamerican heritage. The representation of Indigenous cultures was a crucial aspect of this project. Marvel fans around the world watched intently as Shuri and the Wakandans battled their emotional journeys and completed the deal with the daunting task of facing Namor. While the characters in the film experience grief from losing T’Challa, Black Panther fans grieved the loss of the beloved actor, Chadwick Boseman. Boseman played the ever-loved character, the Black Panther, creating a lasting impact on Marvel fans who admired T’Challa’s kindness and leadership. This film was a particularly important Marvel project, as the first Disney movie to handle the most significant death in an approaching franchise in a respectful and meaningful way.
“Twas the last few days before break at EBHS, when all through the school, not a student was well rested as every test, project, and presentation was crammed into the same last two weeks. Ah yes, December. The dreadful month in which optimists look forward to the break while pessimists fear what comes before. Regardless of how you feel, we just want to let you know that we’re proud of you. As a community, EBHS has accomplished a lot this year.

We made it through our first full year back in school. While some may argue that shifting back to our ordinary lives is not that big of an accomplishment, we beg to differ. Afterall, quarantine took its toll on all of us. While some people developed crippling Netflix addictions, others completely destroyed their sleep schedules. Despite the challenges we have faced, we got through them. Getting through 2022 definitely deserves a pat on the back.

Then, of course, there’s the light at the end of the tunnel for us seniors. We’re almost at the end of college application season! Most of us have managed to juggle school work, extracurriculars, and deciding our entire futures at the same time. No matter where we all end up in the coming year, we hope you’ll take the time to appreciate your roots here at EBHS.

To the entirety of EBHS’ staff and student body, thank you for all the hard work you have put into making this a successful year. We hope you take the time to rest your minds and bodies over this well deserved break and make sure to have fun with friends and family.

Happy Holidays! See you in 2023, EBHS!

Shohini & Olivia
Editors-in-Chief 2022-23
Humans of EBHS

“I’m just thinking about whether or not all my students are writing their essays through those new essay writing AIs. It’s pretty worrisome. I’m also thinking about the environmental concerns that come with the holiday season.”
- Mr. Pellicane

“The most pressing question I ask myself is: who am I? Am I just a lump of flesh slugging about or am I here for a greater, divine purpose? In a hundred years will people remember my name or will I lay in the pages of a dusted book as a person of a bygone era? Regardless, I know that one thing holds true. A truth all-encompassing that must never be forgotten: you must join FBLA.”
- EBHS junior Evan Wu

“Now, you may be wondering, why is Kavin out of all people the one being featured in a paper? Is there a catch to this? Well, it depends on the way you look at it. We are so blessed to be in EB, with a vast range of athletic facilities and curriculum that is offered here. Now, there are not just sports and classes offered in EB, there is also an assortment of different clubs you can join, that are made for various amounts of interests. Clubs can help you make new friends, find out new interests, and learn to be more time-conscious. Some clubs include Anime, Esports, Model UN, FBLA, Orchestra, Science Olympiad, Math team, and many honor societies, just to name a few. In fact, there are a whopping 57 clubs that are offered. So, what are you waiting for?”
- EBHS sophomore Kavin Senthil

The Addams Family, Starring Wednesday

by Nivriti Suresh

November 23 marked the release of Netflix’s Wednesday, Starring Jenna Ortega as Wednesday Addams, the series functioned as a revival of the classic Addams Family. The group was most recently seen in 1991’s Addams Family Values. Directed by Tim Burton, Wednesday follows the Addams Family, the series has garnered both popular and critical acclaim. Though many viewers have been divisive, the show has set new records. Wednesday Addams, the series has garnered both popularity and critical acclaim. Though many viewers have been divisive, the show has been praised for its portrayal of Wednesday Addams as a young, rebellious teenager.

Ortega’s performance as Wednesday Addams has been widely applauded. Viewers have praised Ortega’s acting, with many fans calling her the star of the show. “I thoroughly enjoyed the show. I really thought [Ortega]’s acting brought the story to life,” said EBHS senior Alexandra Miehl.

Fans were particularly impressed by Ortega’s choreography to Lady Gaga’s Bloody Mary. Going viral on TikTok, the dance gained the attention of fans, who recreated Wednesday’s moves to a sped up version of Gaga’s song. Further explaining her views, Miehl said “I think there’s a quirkiness to the dance that embodies all of Wednesday’s characteristics. It makes her incredibly relatable.”

Though many viewers have had positive reviews, not all enjoyed the new adaptation of Wednesday’s character. Senior Khadijah Ahmad said, “to me, Tim Burton’s take on the Addams Family did not make sense. The depiction of outcasts against ‘normies’ irked me, and I didn’t enjoy Wednesday’s heightened superiority complex. It did not have the same chemistry and captivating touch the 1991-1993 Addams Family had.”

Ahmad’s notes on the changes to Wednesday’s character are particularly notable when comparing the show to 1991’s The Addams Family and 1993’s Addams Family Values. Starring Christina Ricci as Wednesday Addams, the movie centered primarily around the lives of Morticia and Gomez Addams. Paying homage to her old role, Ricci stars in Wednesday as Marilyn Thornhill, a teacher at Nevermore Academy.

While season two of Wednesday has yet to be announced, some fans think it’s just a matter of time. “After all,” said Miehl, “if this many people love a show this much, they must be doing something right.” As for the Addams Family? “Wednesday is just the beginning.”
Retweet a Tweet: Should Users Edit Tweets?

by Aman Uddin

First launched on June 3, 2021, Twitter released Twitter Blue, a Twitter subscription service providing users with the ability to tweet and edit posts. Twitter Blue users have to pay $4.99 per month in order to have exclusive access to such features. The new feature to edit tweets has ignited further controversy over the social media platform—how might the functions of Twitter change if users have the ability to edit tweets?

Editing messages and posts is not a new concept. In fact, Facebook users were testing a feature that will have a similar label indicating that a message has been edited. Some contend that if the meaning of a tweet on any social media platform is edited, then its likes and shares should reset.

I think just seeing what the blue check mark being able to be purchased has done to Twitter, they should definitely learn from their mistakes.”

- Senior Sarthak Roongta

Some services, such as Discord, utilize a feature like this. Twitter is currently testing a feature that will have a similar label indicating that a message has been edited. Some contend that if the meaning of a tweet on any social media platform is edited, then its likes and shares should reset.

I think just seeing what the blue check mark being able to be purchased has done to Twitter, they should definitely learn from their mistakes.”

- Senior Sarthak Roongta

The Parking Situation at EBHS

by Ella Chen and Jasmine Gao

As more students have begun to drive to school, there is a growing concern over parking. Spots are becoming fewer and far between as students who do not possess a parking permit are now using the Summerhill Parking Lot. Despite there already being a permit system for parking at EBHS, controversy lies with whether this policy should be made stricter.

In response to whether the parking policy should be made stricter, EBHS senior Chahel Katoch said, “Yes, definitely. I drive to school everyday and the traffic makes it really difficult to get in. A lot of juniors are also starting to get their licenses and it’s hard to get around them, especially since they’re new to driving.”

This sentiment was corroborated by senior Jaiden Radoczy who said, “I am not able to make it to class on time when I’m stuck in traffic.”

Despite this, there are some who believe that the current system should not be changed. EBHS junior Allan Gao said “Although there are problems with the current system of parking at the highschool, any modifications to the parking lot to make parking more reliable for seniors will arguably take more time in the morning. This will cause all seniors to be later, and not just the ones who get unlucky.”

“I am not able to make it to class on time when I’m stuck in traffic.”

- Jaiden Radoczy

As the year goes on and more drivers begin parking in the senior parking lot, the question remains as to whether or not the school will make changes to secure these spots to their rightful owners.

While some preach honesty online, others may take advantage of the opportunity to avoid controversy. Between these lines are various other arguments that have created a sea of dissonance amongst users and bystanders alike. It’s safe to say that Twitter clearly is stirring up major controversy; only they can’t hit an edit button.

“I think just seeing what the blue check mark being able to be purchased has done to Twitter, they should definitely learn from their mistakes”

- Senior Sarthak Roongta

Focus News

First launched on June 3, 2021, Twitter Blue is a subscription service that features paid verification as well as tweet editing.

Edited tweets should be labeled as “edited.”

An aerial shot of East Brunswick High School.
The 2022 Anderson Bowl

by Savany Abenyaka

On Thursday, November 17, the EBHS National Honor Society hosted their first-ever annual Anderson Bowl, formerly known as “Powlerpuff.” The school community came together to organize this event in honor of Ms. Leslie Anderson, a beloved science teacher, and mentor at EBHS. Ms. Anderson was an incredible role model to both students and staff throughout her years at East Brunswick High School and spread so much kindness and generosity to all who knew her. With the help of administrators and the student body, the Anderson Bowl was an incredible success and created memories that will forever honor Ms. Anderson and the legacy she left behind.

“I’m so glad I could honor Ms. Anderson in this event,” said EBHS senior and Anderson Bowl participant Sapna Stanley. “She was an amazing teacher and friend to all, and she meant a lot to me. I know she would’ve loved the turnout and I’m glad the event was so successful.”

In the days leading up to the game, the players spent several hours after school practicing and bonding with one another, building confidence and coordination for the upcoming event. The sophomore and junior girls were preparing to play a football game against the senior girls, while boys from all grade levels took on the role of cheerleading for the event. Junior, Evnika Myhovych, who also took part in the game said that “the practices themselves were really fun as I was able to interact with new people and form strategies with them.”

On the day of the game, students and family filled the stands of the EBHS Jay Doyle stadium to watch this “roles-reversed” game unfold. The refreshment stands were crowded with students waiting in line for a cup of hot chocolate, and the dance team anxiously awaited their performance during halftime. Some players lined the sides of the field as they watched their other teammates take on the viewers and cheer on the field, cheering each other on while nervously watching the clock on the scoreboard countdown to zero.

After a competitive four quarters, the seniors took the victory. “I absolutely loved playing and cheering on my team,” Stanley said. “I’m really competitive so winning was definitely super exhilarating for me. I loved watching my teammates succeed. Watching the video of us screaming for each other will always make me smile. I’m so glad we got to share such a fun experience together.”

The sophomore and junior team shared in the seniors’ enthusiastic sentiment. “Regardless of which side we won, we all put ourselves in the game and played our hardest and that’s what mattered most,” said Myhovych. A bonfire took place following the game, and everyone gathered to capture the night in pictures once more. The whole evening was “definitely an experience I’ll remember for a while,” said Myhovych.

On November 17, Taylor Swift addressed the Ticketmaster debacle regarding her latest tour. Ticketmaster, the world’s largest ticket enterprise, scammed countless fans after their system was unable to process the high volume of consumers buying presale tickets as they continued on their relentless hunt for tickets. On her Instagram account, Swift condemned Ticketmaster for the incident, noting that the problems the website had led to a multitude of reasons why people struggled with obtaining tickets. Additionally Swift explained she would not be making excuses for any involved parties.

Many of Swift’s fans placed blame on Ticketmaster, saying tickets were handled irresponsibly. Ticketmaster’s constant reassurance promised fans they could handle large demands, though they unfortunately fell flat.

Sophomore Gillian Stein said, “It was super irresponsible the way Ticketmaster handled the tickets. They sent out way more presale codes than they were supposed to, which turned out to be a disaster. Because of that, people who didn’t get a presale code couldn’t get tickets at all.”

The issues started when the site’s sale began for the “verified fans.” This was a mechanism used to eliminate bots, in which presale codes were given to individuals.

As researchers strive to find ways astronauts can spend longer periods of time in space, access to fresh food while in the cosmos is a necessity. On November 26, as SpaceX launched its mission to the International Space Station, a significant step towards the future of vegetation in space was made. The SpaceX cargo carried multiple items to sustain the astronauts, including beans, apples, pie, and, of course, tomatoes.

In order to ensure the tomato’s flavor and nutritional value in space, tomato seeds will be grown under two different sets of light conditions. Likewise, tomatoes will be grown on Earth to establish a control group to which the effects of a zero-gravity environment on tomato growth can be compared.

Hannah Gao, a senior at EBHS, said that “I think that the idea will be able to upgrade research for plants in space.”

Adhering to the space station’s Vegetable Production System, the tomatoes will be grown in tiny bags and astronauts will be tasked with providing regular care.

During testing, the team will rate the flavor, aroma, juiciness, and texture of tomatoes grown within the various light treatments. In addition to creating healthier food options for astronauts, the experiment is also expected to improve moods.

Surveys will be conducted to track the astronauts’ attitudes as they interact with the tomatoes to determine the positive effects of tending to the plants whilst in isolation.

Sarah Robertson, a junior at EBHS, explains that “this method is ingenious in that it not only marks a major scientific advancement, but also has the potential to provide comfort to astronauts during times of solitude.”

I’m so glad I could honor Ms. Anderson in this event. She was an amazing teacher and friend to all, and she meant a lot to me. I know she would’ve loved the turnout and I’m glad the event was so successful - Senior Sapna Stanley
Classic Christmas Songs and Movies

by Navya Pandit

Tis the season! It’s finally time to put away the turkey basters and pull out the Christmas tree. While some view this holiday as an opportunity to reunite with loved ones, enjoy a hearty meal around the dinner table, and drink hot chocolate near the fireplace, others splurge on holiday shopping for friends and family, sing festive songs, and watch Christmas movies.

Throughout the years, traditional Christmas songs such as “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree”, “Deck The Halls”, and other perennial favorites, have been essential in cultivating the Christmas spirit—playing everywhere from shopping malls, grocery stores, and even amusement parks during the holiday season.

However, in the last decade, artists such as Michael Bublé, Dean Martin, and Mariah Carey have also cultivated an image for themselves as “Christmas singers,” making them modern-day favorites.

“Personally, my favorite Christmas movie is Elf. I love Will Ferrell and I was obsessed with Jodi and her singing voice. It brings back so many fun childhood memories” said EBHS senior James Kan. “As for my favorite Christmas song, while I love everything by Mariah Carey, has to be ‘My Only Wish (This Year?’ by Brandy Spears or ‘Feliz Navidad.’”

Not only do songs and movies generate a joyful holiday ambiance, but music compositions from plays such as The Nutcracker, also do an exceptional job of creating that ambiance that people know and love. The Nutcracker’s composer, Tchaikovsky, is often credited as the pioneer in this genre.

In the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, Tchaikovsky uses the celesta, also known as a bell-piano, to create a “celestial” sound and a music structure, commonly recognized in Christmas songs and movie soundtracks from the last six decades. Orchestral instruments and jingle bells are also staple tunes found around Christmastime.

Reflecting upon her feelings towards the holiday season and her favorite Christmas movie, EBHS sophomore, Kayla Bajajkian said that “the holidays are [her] absolute favorite time of the year” and while she cannot select a favorite Christmas song because there are so many good ones to choose from her, “favorite holiday movie is A Charlie Brown Christmas because it is a tradition in [her] house to watch that movie, every Christmas Eve.”

While everyone has their own ways of celebrating the holidays, it is safe to say that most people associate the holiday season with childhood memories, where Christmas songs and movies play a huge role in establishing that “magical” holiday feeling. Although it is difficult to recreate that nostalgia among teenagers, the holidays serve as a reminder of togetherness, being with the people you love, to be grateful for everything that life has to offer, to help those who are not as fortunate.

The Next Steve Jobs…to a Fraud?

by Ana Bornstein and Siri Navaneetam

Formerly dubbed the “Next Steve Jobs,” Elizabeth Holmes once held the title of the world’s youngest self-made billionaire. A Stanford drop-out, Holmes took on the heavily male-dominated world of Silicon Valley and entered into the biotechnology industry.

The goal of her multi-billion dollar company, Theranos, founded in 2003, was to make blood testing more efficient. It advertised that a user would be able to test for many diseases simply by pricking their finger and inserting a single drop of blood as a sample into Theranos’ invention, “The Edison.” Since less blood was being drawn as opposed to venipuncture, a person could more recurrently see how their health changed over the course of months to potentially prevent a life-threatening disease or catch it early on.

The aforementioned dress up contest for Bollywood Night has excited many EBHS students. Senior Rohit Tripathi “[He] look[s] forward to being able to attend the occasion and dress up as actor Shah Rukh Khan, because he’s really good looking and [he] love[s] his acting. [He] think[s] dressing up as Shah Rukh Khan would pay [his] respects.”

Students and club members seem eager to experience and enjoy the culture with their peers by appreciating their favorite stars, songs, dances and films.

Behind the Scenes of Bollywood Night

by Tazkia Rahim

Over the past few weeks, the EBHS International Club has begun preparing for one of their first cultural events of the school year—Bollywood Night! This function serves to appreciate the music, dance, food and more of the famous Indian film industry.

Several activities are planned in order to make the celebration an exciting and memorable night. President of the International Club, senior Nishtha Jakka, said, “[They] have a photo booth contest, food eating contest, and a dress up contest to get people hyped up and excited. The team is working hard to make EBHS students thrilled.”

Additionally, one of the exciting focuses of the night is the dance that will be presented by the International Club Executive Board. When asking Sahil Kochhar, sophomore on the executive board, about the procedures with the choreography, he said, “we have been working hard choreographing the dance for the past few weeks and are almost done; we just need to finish up practices. It’s looking to be a successful performance filled with action and bype.”

Figure 1: Amazon Photos

International Club’s photo booth design was loosely based off of famous Bollywood movie Jab We Met

Figure 2: PCMag

Chocolate near the fireplace, watching Christmas movies, shopping for friends and others splurge on holiday gifts. Christmas is a time to remind ourselves of the joy and gratitude for everything that life has to offer. While technological advances promising a brighter future have been numerous in recent years, perhaps this case shows each must be viewed with a grain of salt.
Elon Musk’s Tyrannical Rule of Twitter

by Gabrielle Terlovsky

After buying twitter, Elon Musk’s reign as CEO has caused controversy. With the introduction of new features like Twitter Blue, where users pay $9.99 a month for a verified profile, individuals have made false statements under the guise of a company to tank stock prices. Additionally, according to the Washington Post, Musk has fired half of the Twitter staff amounting to thousands unemployed. As these numbers add up, the question remains as to whether Elon Musk has abuses his power, or if he has run the company well.

From the start of Musk’s tenure as CEO, his goal has been prioritizing free speech on Twitter. With the increase in user freedom, there has also been an increase in the use of racial, transphobic, and homophobic slurs on the platform, according to the Brookings Institution. Elon Musk has acted to censor extreme cases of hate speech. However, debate has developed over what he has banned. EBBS sophomore Samah Quadri said, “he’s made people continually lose jobs and has [faced] no repercussion[s] for his actions.”

Additionally, the Twitter Blue program was censored by an individual who impersonated the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly to announce insulin was now free. The Washington Post stated this led to a large drop in the stock price of the company and millions of dollars lost.

Regardless of the scandals with Musk in charge, his supporters believe it is within his right to run the company as he pleases. ABC news reported that Elon Musk purchased Twitter for around 44 billion dollars; therefore, those on his side feel as the owner he has the right to act with Twitter as he wishes. Although it is within his right to act as he has, the purchase has negatively impacted Musk himself with the purchase not being profitable. Since the purchase of Twitter was finalized in late October, the stock price of Musk’s most profitable company Tesla has dropped by 20%. In fact, Twitter itself has lost 3 million dollars a day according to NPR. Sophomore Rohit Tripathi said, “Elon Musk is okay I guess, SpaceX is cool and all, but the Twitter thing is kind of strange. Twitter is strange in the way it handles free speech, although it is an American right to feel as if somethings are better left unsaid.”

As Elon Musk’s ideas and policies plague Twitter, Musk’s reign might just be Twitter’s final ruler.

“Twitter is strange in the way it handles free speech, although it is an American right to feel as if somethings are better left unsaid.” - Rohit Tripathi

OUTCRY AGAINST CHINA’S ZERO-COVID POLICY

by Siri Navancetam and Shohine Das

Recently, the streets of major Chinese cities have been rocked by protests against the country’s Zero-COVID Policy, forcing the eradication of the COVID-19 virus completely, rather than living with it. The Chinese government has imposed strict lockdowns, isolated residents, and conducted mass testing in areas where cases have been reported. The approach is so severe that entire cities housing thousands of people have been locked down over just a few COVID cases.

In fact, some zones are guarded with drones to ensure compliance, and many workers and shoppers have fled stores and factories to avoid being locked inside. Because of this, it has also been difficult for citizens to obtain essential supplies, such as food, medical care, and other necessities. With the large number of protests that have been shown through the media, “The fact that there aren’t that many protests in China and that they are protesting now shows the seriousness” says EBBS sophomore, Janice Whang.

With the harsh regulations of the policy, one particular incident sparked a surge of unrest was an apartment fire in Urumqi, Xinjiang. Because people were not permitted to leave their residences due to the Zero-COVID Policy, at least ten people have died in the fire.

The constant lockdowns have been widely believed to be preventing people from escaping, but authorities deny this fact. EBBS junior Nathan Bernadskii explains that “this tragic outcome could’ve been easily avoided if such strict regulations were lessened and made more humane.”

The reason for such a large focus on China is due to the differences between its handling of the virus compared to other countries. Most countries began relaxing their strict COVID policies after highly effective mRNA vaccines became available. On the contrary, China has refused to hedge from its aggressive lockdown policies and while containing the outbreak more effectively, the country’s official figures have been questioned several times. For example, the country only reported 1.5 million cases, compared to the United States’s 10 million cases. Due to this, several experts believe the country is using strict lockdown measures to buy time to implement more durable strategies, such as vaccinations.

Overall however, under the policy, China has failed to vaccinate most of its vulnerable population, notably the elderly.

“Twitter itself might just be Twitter’s final ruler.”

“Twitter is strange in the way it handles free speech, although it is an American right to feel as if somethings are better left unsaid.” - Rohit Tripathi

“The fact that there aren’t that many protests in China and that they are protesting now shows the seriousness” - EBBS sophomore, Janice Whang.
As December nears its end, students and staff alike anticipate the long-awaited Winter Break. With this time off, there are many exciting ways in which EBHS students look forward to spending their holidays. While Winter Break is an awesome opportunity for all students to refresh their minds and take a much deserved break from their daily routines at school. It is also a time to have fun while sharing and creating joyful memories with friends and family. However, everyone spends their holidays in different ways.

“I haven’t been able to spend a lot of time with my sister recently since she’s been in college,” said EBHS senior Karen Kolta. “I can’t wait to hang out with her more during the break.”

Despite the fact that EBHS is getting ready to celebrate the holidays, sports continue. Many EBHS athletes will be competing during this break.

EBHS junior Arjun Kapadia said “during this break [he] will spend time with friends and family. I will also have a track meet, which is something I am looking forward to.”

EBHS must be committed to their sports and always prepared to compete.

While some spend Winter Break in the comfort of their home, others will be out visiting different places. Traveling is another wonderful way to spend your winter break as you have time to enjoy new places without the worry of school.

EBHS junior Elle Jedreicich said “during Christmas break, I am going to New York to go shopping and walk around. I am also hanging out with friends.”

The EBHS Choir members visit the homes of the holiday song of the buyer’s choosing to the telegram recipient. Prashasth Turaga, a junior participating in singing for the Telegrams, said “The telegrams are a great way to build community in the school, and he’s glad the choral program could spread holiday cheer.”

The EBHS choir department looks forward to their upcoming winter concert on January 17th, and have already begun the rehearsal process.

The EBHS Choir Program is comprised of sopranos and altos, and Concert Choir, which is comprised of sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. In preparation for their concert, the combined choirs have rehearsed together.

Nishika Rao, junior member of Bella Voce, said she “looks forward to expressing the message of each piece with emotion. There is so much variety in [their] pieces and the unique stories each song tells.”

Singing Telegrams are another annual tradition for the EBHS music department, not to mention a great source of entertainment for EBHS students! The singing telegram can be purchased by EBHS students to send to one of their friends. Prior to winter break, choir members visit the classrooms to sing a holiday song of the buyer’s choosing to the telegram recipient.

The EBHS choir department has put in a great deal of effort in preparing their winter performances. Their past concerts did not disappoint, and future performances are sure to impress!