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Friends' Central Holiday Concerts 2010



*The Friends' Central Orchestra Performed at Liberty Place on Wed. Dec. 8.
Photo from <http://friendscentral.org>*

Konichiwa, From Japan

Mary Chawaga has spent the last semester living abroad in Japan. Living with Americans in Tokyo, Mary has been able to experience the life of an expat, while also immersing herself in Japanese culture. From businessmen playing Nintendo DS's on the subway to a new and different fashion scene, Japan is unique. Mary will be returning over winter break. Wish her a safe journey home, and in the meantime, enjoy this short account of her adventure:

Surprisingly, I live a pretty American life here. I live with my aunt, uncle and cousins (Noah age 10, Mia 13 and Lucas who is 15) and go to an American school where all my classes are in English. So during the week it's not so Japanese. During the weekends I usually take the train to downtown Tokyo to hang out with my friends who all live in the city. Girls here have a crazy but awesome fashion sense which makes it so much fun to live here. Since my aunt and uncle work at the school, I live out in the suburbs about a 2 minute walk from campus. There are Cold Stone Creamerys here and Starbucks so there's always something I can find that will remind me of home. Saying that, there are some pretty Japanese things I do here too. If you ever want to throw anything away you have to separate it into Burnable and Non-Burnable and recycle cans and bottles, but you have to throw away the cap separately. When I first got here I kept forgetting but now it's not such a big hassle. I also ride my bike everywhere. Everyone here rides bikes. They also really like cell phone charms: there are some pretty ridiculous ones out there... it's like a stuffed animal hanging off your cell phone. And on the train everyone plays their

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ReGroup

By Hannah Albertine '12

Have you heard about ReGroup? I met with Mr. Morris to get the scoop on the upcoming start of this new committee. Regroup brings Upper School students and faculty together to discuss and propose solutions to community issues. Issues will range from the controversial cell phone policy to the intensity of the "homework wave." Regroup will not only facilitate a constructive conversation between teachers and students, but also present suggestions to the Administration. Mr. Morris commented, "It's our job to brainstorm and try to have a positive impact in the school, but it's not our job to enforce these changes."

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Freshmen Reflections Advice from the Class of 2010

By Benjamin Yahalomi '11

As the Class of 2011 eagerly awaited early application results, last year's seniors candidly reflect on their experience at Friends' Central and in college thus far. Their remembrances about high school demonstrate a fondness for the close-knit community we have and the lifelong friendships they have developed as a result of this closeness. Even as they are living an ideal college life, they all yearn for the "down-home FCS feel," as graduate Gwen Lewis remarked. In addition to missing their friends, they miss the faculty and staff that make FCS the place it is today. Olivia Gillison wrote, "It's the people who run the show that make that place special."

As a senior, and someone affected by "senioritis," I am starting to feel the pull of graduation and am excited for college. I acknowledge that I often don't cherish the special place

that FCS is, and whether thinking about the next exam, or early decision results, I don't live in the moment. Pre-occupied by thoughts of graduation and the next step in my life, I am often unable to appreciate the exceptional community we have at Friends' Central. I acknowledge that Friends' Central has its faults, as does any high school, but overall it is a community that has helped me become the person I am today. In their advice for this year's seniors, the Class of 2010 recommended that we enjoy FCS while we can, and truly cherish our last few months as high school students. Good luck to all the other seniors, and

make sure you take notice of their well-thought out advice!

--Benjamin Yahalomi, Co-Editor in Chief and Class of 2011

It's a huge change going from being 1 of about 300 students at Friends' Central to being 1 of about 10,000



Gwen Lewis 2nd from left, at Kelly Writers' House

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students at UPenn. I always wanted to know what it feels like to go to a large school, where everyone doesn't know your name and where you can meet new people. In college I've found that place, but oddly enough I find myself searching for atmospheres, within the large university, that give me that cozy, down-home FCS feel. I'm now a part of the land of opportunities, so to speak. I meet interesting and intelligent people from all around the world. I've been offered a ten-week internship at a hip new marketing firm in Brooklyn. I am experiencing, arguably, the best time of my life. I love it. Yet, deep down, I truly miss the familiarity that I had in Friends' Central. Looking back, I wish that I had spent my senior year with my head in the "now" rather than in the future, cherishing the last bits I had of the FCS community rather than drifting through the days after my acceptance into college, waiting for school to be over. My advice to the seniors is to appreciate where you are in life at the moment. You'll have plenty of time to enjoy college while IN college, so enjoy high school while you're in high school.

--Gwen Lewis (UPenn '2014)

After being up north for my childhood, I really wanted to get out and experience more in my life then I had already seen. So I felt going down south would be my best option. So far I enjoy it so much, and it's a big culture change. One piece of advice I would give the seniors is go down the path you want to go. Don't make it some competition and try to out do one other.

--Rich Olson (Ole Miss '14)

My thoughts about Friends' Central...Well for one thing, you can't say that FC never gave you a second family, and I think that's the most important part about this school. When I was looking for a college/universitie to attend my senior year, the one thing I wanted it to have the most was a sense of family/ community. While Ohio Wesleyan definitely does have this feeling, it is nothing compared to what you get going to FC. Yes, the professors here are mostly encouraging but I have yet to find that one professor to whom I can go to anything about. (I know, I'm only finishing my first semester and there's plenty of time to find the right one, but at FC within the first couple of weeks, if you want a teacher to confide in, almost everyone will find one.) But regardless, I can't say that anywhere else can you find the true sense of family within a school. I also want to point out that going to FC isn't about the people you're there with; it's

about the teachers. I say this because just last week when I was there for the young alumni open house, the people I really wanted to see weren't my classmates, rather they were the teachers who helped me grow up and mature through school. To



say that Friends' Central doesn't have a strong network of faculty would be an outright lie. So what do I have to reflect on about FC? I'd have to say it's the people who run the show that make that place special. All the way from the cafeteria ladies, excuse me I mean dining hall, to Ms. Beth, everyone can get a chance to know you and give you a little bit of life's lessons along the way. That's what makes FC so special.

--Olivia Gillison (Ohio Wesleyan '14) (pictured)

"All I can say is that college is worth the work of high school."

--Ben Filreis (Bard '14)

My freshman year so far has been really great. Friends' Central has prepared me well for college. Needless to say, after being a FCS student since kindergarten, I was ready to graduate from high school. Especially around the winter I started to feel the pull of graduation, as I'm sure the class of 2011 is feeling the same pull now. My advice is to cherish this time. It is so cliché, but it really is true. Don't cherish the schoolwork or the ease of high school, because high school isn't all that easy, but cherish your friends. That's what you'll miss the most. In college you'll form invaluable relationships with those you meet but they won't compare to the ones that you have with your friends back home. Finally, go easy on your parents. They're going to start getting reeeaaalllyyy weird as you prepare to leave for school. It's only because they're already starting to miss you. College will be great no matter where you go. This is not the end of the world. At all. Good luck.

--Natasha Willis (West Chester '14)

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Nintendo DS's. Even businessmen in their suits and ties; it's funny because they're really intense about whatever game they're playing. On the weekends around my neighborhood I see boys playing on their sports team (mostly soccer and baseball) from 8 in the morning to 6 at night. Sometimes when I walk the dog after school, I will see little boys (age 9 or 10) running a cross-country course for



their baseball teams. I tell them "ganbatte" which means "let's go/ you can do it" sort of thing. They always look confused and laugh at me when I say it... so I'd say that's a pretty good sign that I'm saying it correctly :). But that's about all the Japanese I know.

What I've learned from my trip is how much I appreciate my life back home in Pennsylvania. Not that I don't LOVE Japan, but it's definitely not my home. Living in another country, around the world from where your home is- you learn how fortunate you are. I am so thankful to my parents and my relatives here in Japan for letting me have an experience like this. I have grown a lot as a person, and it's hard to explain how much I've gained from this opportunity. Through the hard times of missing my family and friends, I've been able to lean on the friends I've made here, and it will be really hard to leave them. I'll also miss some of the weird drinks I like here. There's this "Fanta Shake" drink that's like Fanta

from **ReGroup** on page 1

Mr. Morris stressed that ReGroup is not meant to take any duties or responsibilities away from Student Council, but to instead assist them with a specific focus on student issues. "We're not going to be competing with Student Council's agenda or stepping on their toes. In fact, we would like to establish a strong link between ReGroup and Student Council." The committee will have two representatives (presumably a boy/girl pair) from each

grade and two additional Student Council representatives. Mr. Morris hopes that the Student Council representatives will present ReGroup's ideas to the larger Student Council community during Tuesday morning meetings. ReGroup is the first ever official student-teacher discussion group at Friends' Central. The committee will start meeting after winter break. Mr. Morris encourages all students to contribute ideas to ReGroup. Please email bmorris@friendscentral.org or talk to any member of ReGroup for more information.

Dearest *Serena*...

Dearest Serena,

I enjoy watching "baby shows" such as *Sid the Science Kid*, *Between the Lions*, and *Sesame Street*. Despite everyone's criticism, I find these shows quite educational, but recently the plots have become increasingly sophisticated. As a result, I feel a desperate need for discussion and clarification of them. Should I or should I not visit the first grade and engage them in brain stimulating convo?

Sincerely,

Between the lines

Dear Between the lines,

I'm slightly concerned with your TV choices and recommend you get help from a

therapist. Did something traumatizing happen during your childhood years? I will admit that I indulge myself with old shows like *Maggie* and the *Ferocious Beast* once in a while when I miss school for some extremely legitimate reason but this does not seem like just an occasional thing for you. When tapping into the light within, I get this vibe warning me that such tv fare is potentially an unhealthy hobby. Also I imagine that the first grade teachers would not be pleased with an overgrown baby interrupting their class for Elmo so please don't go anywhere within a ten mile radius of the Lower School for everyone's sake.

Sincerely,

Serena

soda and you shake it up and it turns into jello. But it's good, I promise. Also Aquarius is a really popular drink here. It's like the equivalent to Gatorade and it's grapefruit flavored. They also have normal Coke and Dr. Pepper. I actually found Arizona Iced Tea the other day which made me really excited.

- Mary Chawaga (Back row, center in photo)

Making the Grade

By Sami Resnik ‘12 It’s Thursday afternoon, and the *Angels in America* papers have been handed back. There’s a moment of silence as everyone pretends to read the comments, but really looks for his or her grade. Class ends and the second we’re out the door, the infamous “grade” question is asked: “What did you get?”

This question is not uncommon; in fact it’s exactly what I expect after any graded assingment is handed back to a class, be it a quiz, test, or paper. There are a couple ways that students deal with this question, depending on the grade they received. Some simply share their grade with others. They do this because they did well and are glad someone asked the question, rather than them having to play the question game. Another way students deal with this is to haughtily announce, “I’m not telling you,” which then makes your classmates think you didn’t do too well, but you’re too pleased with how you answered so you don’t care if they think that. The worst answer, but the one the asker probably wants the most is: “I failed.” The fail answer is split into three categories, the laughing “I failed,” the close to tears “I failed” and the angry “I hate this class” fail. Maybe some of these situations are familiar to you, maybe they aren’t, but no matter how anyone responds to “What did you get?” the fact that it is asked in the first place is really interesting.

Why do students feel the need to know other people’s grades? Grades are supposed to be private, so why is the exact opposite true at FCS? Katherine Drebin, a senior at Friends’ Central, explains, “People are really self-conscious and regardless of whether they did well or badly they want to see how their friends did to make sure they’re on the same level as they or better. Knowing how other people did can be a big boost in confidence for your own grade.” Katherine was right to mention comparison as a key motivation for the inquisitiveness students demonstrate towards knowing others’ grades. It’s done with SAT scores, college acceptance letters, and more.

Why all the comparing? Our grades are personal and not something that define us. “Sharing grades or wanting to know what other people received allows students to place each other, or themselves, in distinct categories. The smart kid, the one who doesn’t try... it doesn’t matter. Grades are not just a letter on a paper. They turn into so much more. A label, a way you’re seen by others,” says Declan Hahn, a junior at FCS. He has a point. High school students love to make decisions about someone, and an easy way to do this is with grades. So, next time someone asks you “the question,” think before you answer. Is your friend trying to “grade” you as a person, “grade” themselves, or do they truly wish to know that you got a B on your lit paper? Teachers don’t publicly announce your grades for a reason; neither is your report card open for other people’s pleasure reading. Keep your grades private, or prepare to receive a much larger grade—one on yourself.

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

When Rachel Hit Dad With the Cube

By Oliver Goodman ‘13

“The toilet is clogged, and your Dad’s in the hospital. Get up, we’re going to the train.”

That was how my cousin woke me up on the morning of my Mom’s birthday, December 11, 2009. I hopped out of bed, put on my jeans and a hoodie and walked downstairs to harvest my crops on Farmville. Although at the time I was more upset about the toilet being clogged (seeing as I would have to do a certain morning routine in Shallcross), I had no idea what was yet to come. While driving to 30th St. Station, Cousin Sara explained what had happened 2-½ hrs. before, at about 5 in the morning...

Just like every other morning, my sister Rachel got up and went to morning FCA practice, and just like every morning, she got in an accident. Although today was something different; she backed up into the garage door railing, derailing the door off the track. However neither Rachel nor my dad knew what had actually happened, and when my dad saw the garage door hanging off the wall, he went to go try and fix it. My dad, “the daredevil,” got his hand caught between the two sections of the garage, which almost severed two of his fingers.

As Cousin Sara told me this I was almost shocked that I didn’t wake up from Deborah, my Mom, making screeching noises. As I sat on the train, Local to Thorndale, my

mind was racing at all the possibilities that could come from this; was my Dad okay? Was he going to end up like Captain Hook? How much trouble would Rachel be in? After my first period math class, I dashed out the door, nearly knocking Mrs. Haimm over, and jumped down the FCC stairs, hoping to catch Rachel as she was coming out of Mr. Darling’s room.

“What do you wa...” she started to say, but I cut her off with, “YOU MORTALED OUR DAD!” “Mutilated,” she corrected, and having no idea of the previous events, asked, ”and what are you talking about?”

“Sit down,” I said, and explained how my morning had been, and worst of all, the clogged toilet. I watched as her jaw dropped, her fingers stopped BBMING, and she fell silent.

Lucky enough for us, we both had the next block free so we were able to call Deborah and find out the severity of the issue. As we talked more about it, Deborah told us that dad would probably end up with some permanent nerve damage, will need surgery, and is being “A big whiny baby.” Deborah clearly was jealous of Dad for “hogging all of the attention.”

By the end of the day Rachel and I had done turn-arounds from “Shocked and upset” to “How can we use this to get out of swim practice?” However the most ironic part of the whole situation was that Rachel, the Attempted Murderer, got to have my dad’s car for eight weeks while he was unable to drive it.

The Top 10 Holiday Gifts of 2010

By Jordyn Karliner ‘14

This winter, there are a multitude of gifts to satisfy any budget. Wondering what to buy a family member or friend? Or what to put on your own list? Check out this Top 10 List!

iPhone

The iPhone 4, released in summer 2010, is Apple’s newest, thinnest, and fastest iPhone yet. One of the most innovative features is FaceTime, which allows users to video chat from their phone if WiFi is accessible. The new retina display is also the brightest and best yet. The iPhone 4 costs \$199 for 16GB or \$299 for 32GB.

iPad

The iPad is Apple’s first touch-screen tablet computer. Available in Wi-Fi only versions, or with the capability to run on AT&T and now Verizon’s network, it is a multimedia wonder piece. On one device, you can check Facebook, listen to music and watch movies and tv shows, download and read books from Apple’s bookstore or many others downloadable in the app store, watch online video, and choose from hundreds of thousands of apps in the app store. Once you own one, you’ll never want to go without it! The iPad costs \$499 for 16GB, \$599 for 32GB, and \$699 for 64GB.

Laptop

Laptops have become popular, especially with teens, who love the mobility that comes with a laptop. We recommend the MacBook for high school students - it is affordable, beautifully designed, light, and loaded with Apple’s iLife

programs. The MacBook is very convenient, and is easy to take to school, on vacation, to a friend’s house, or wherever. Student-friendly laptops range in price from \$300 for a Netbook, to \$999 for a MacBook.

Xbox Kinect (pictured)

Kinect for Xbox 360 allows you to be the controller. No game controller is needed! Movies and music are controlled with the wave of a hand and the sound of a voice. Playing sports games has never been so much fun. Kinect costs \$150.



From: <http://www.amazon.com>

Amazon Kindle

The Amazon Kindle is an E-reader that allows users to download books straight to the device in less than one minute. It is great for traveling, because you don’t have to carry heavy books (it only weighs 10.3 ounces). The Kindle has WiFi, and the Kindle Store contains more than 700,000 books. Newspapers, magazines, and blogs are also available, so there is something for everyone to read. The Kindle costs \$139 for the WiFi version and \$189 for the version with 3G and WiFi.

Gift cards

When you don’t know what to get someone

see [Top 10 Gifts](#) on page 7



Philadelphia welcomes back Cliff Lee,
to the city of Brother-Lee Love!

Mid-Season NFL Recap

By Max Ginsberg '14 and Daniel Yahalomi '14

The NFC 2010 season has been unpredictable, surprising, and exciting, and filled with both disappointments and pleasant surprises. Several teams have had a dramatic improvement in their record, and several a dramatic decline. The Dallas Cowboys and the Minnesota Vikings both won their division in the 2009 season, but now sit towards the bottom of the NFC. On the opposite spectrum, the St. Louis Rams finished the 2009 season at a horrible 1-15 record, the worst in the NFL, and now sit atop their division. Additionally, the Chicago Bears finished last year at 7-9, placing them 3rd in their division, but led by strong defensive play, they have become a dominant force in the NFC.

One team that stands out is the Atlanta Falcons, led by their quarterback Matt Ryan, wide receiver Roddy White, and running back Michael Turner. The Falcons have been able to convert late in close games and that is always a recipe for success. If the Falcons can secure home field advantage in the NFC, their chances of reaching the Super Bowl will get even better. In his first three years, Matt Ryan has just one loss in home games, a very impressive record. In addition, you cannot count out the Green Bay Packers, New Orleans Saints, and New York Giants, who have all played well this season.

Lastly, you cannot disregard the success of the Philadelphia Eagles. The Eagles had a busy off-season, getting rid of both Donovan McNabb and Brian Westbrook, two players that defined this team for many years. As a result of this decision, many people were not expecting much out of this Eagles team, but how mistaken we all are. The Eagles have played above expectations this year, and are in a tight race with the Giants for the NFC East crown. This success is largely due to the incredible play of Michael Vick, who is having an MVP caliber season. Going into the season, Kevin Kolb was the starting quarterback, but when he got hurt in week one against the Packers, the Eagles season and fortune completely changed. Michael Vick came in, nearly bringing the Eagles all the way back, and providing an instant spark. With Kolb out due to a concussion, Vick shined, earning the starting job, and he since has soared above expectations. Vick has become a pocket quarterback, but is still a threat on the ground as well. With Vick elevating his passing game, this Eagles team has what it takes to win the NFC. Is this Eagles team different than years past, and will they finally come through in the playoffs? It remains to be seen, but right now, Michael Vick has the city of Philadelphia buzzing.



Michael Vick Against the Houstoni Texans
Photo from <http://sports.yahoo.com>

In this unpredictable NFL season, the AFC has likewise been highly competitive and often shocking to fans and sports reviewers alike. Four perennial powerhouses lead the conference: The Patriots, Jets,

Ravens, and Steelers. When you talk about the NFL, you have to mention the New England Patriots, led by three-time Super Bowl winner, Tom Brady. After dismantling the Jets and Bears the last two weeks, the Patriots are the team to beat not just in the AFC, but the NFL. The Jets, after a 9-2 start, have dropped their past two games and look to be in trouble. Mark Sanchez has regressed in these losses, and must elevate his game as the Jets travel to Pittsburgh and Chicago the next two weeks. With a defense among the leagues best, it's up to Sanchez and that offense to prove it has what it takes to make it to Dallas. The Ravens have a hard-nosed defense, and an offense that is finally starting to gel. With receiver Anquan Boldin, running back Ray Rice, and improving QB Joe Flacco, this team has all the tools to make a deep run in the playoffs. Lastly, the Steelers stifling defense and fluid offense make them a threat, with the possibility of another run at the Lombardi trophy.

Every year there is a team that surprises people in the playoffs. Last year it was the Jets, and in 2008, it was the Cardinals. We cannot count out anybody come playoff time. These teams include the Colts, Chiefs, Jaguars, and Chargers. Two of these teams will be left outside of the playoffs and looking in, but I can assure you nobody wants to face the Colts or Chargers come playoff time. Even with all the Colts injuries, Manning has been a magician, and it does not seem to matter who is at receiver, because Peyton Manning will find you. Likewise, Phillip Rivers has been an MVP candidate, and has dealt with many of his weapons being injured as well. Under Norv Turner, the Chargers have lost just one game in December, and that was this season, in week 13 against the Raiders. However, their late season success has not translated in the post-season. Is this the year it does?

On the other hand, there are teams that have been disappointments this year. The Cincinnati Bengals highlight this list. After bringing in receiver Terrell Owens to pair with fellow Pro Bowl wide receiver Chad Ochocinco, many considered the Bengals the team to beat in the conference. Well, the complete opposite has happened. The Terrell Owens experiment has failed, and a big problem has been the play of Carson Palmer. Palmer is having one of the worst seasons of his career, and constantly tries to force it to Terrell Owens, resulting in interceptions. The experiment known as TOCHO failed miserably. In addition, their defense is so debilitated it couldn't stop a Pop Warner team if it tried. The whole NFL was looking forward to watching the Bengals shine this year, but unfortunately they have faded back into obscurity. They have lost ten straight games and counting. It was fun while it lasted.



Chargers QB Phillip Rivers
Photo from sports.yahoo.com



Three FCS Grads Take the Hard Court for Boston University

By Matthew Karliner ‘11

Reprinted from MainLineMediaNews.com

The North Region of the National Invitational Tournament Season Tip Off took place at the Pavilion on the campus of Villanova University on Tuesday and Wednesday November 16th and 17th with local flair.

Competing were the Boston University Terriers, who have various ties to the Main Line. Boston University’s head coach, Pat Chambers, was an assistant coach at Villanova under Jay Wright before he became the coach at BU. In addition, Boston University’s incoming freshman class includes local talent.

Friends’ Central is well represented with HJ Gaskins, Dom Morris, and Travis Robinson all playing for Coach Chambers. The trio led Friends’ Central to back-to-back PAISA Titles in 2009 and 2010 and a Friends Schools League title in 2010. Friends’ Central head coach Jason Polykoff remarked , “It was very exciting to see our three former players making an impact at the college level so quickly. I know with their hard work and dedication to the team they will continue to shine.”

NFL Week 15 Power Rankings

by Wesley Kaminsky ‘11

It was an emotional week in the NFL season, and I'm not even talking about the actual games. I'm talking about my fantasy heartbreak.

After sneaking in the playoffs thanks to Tom Brady's performance on Monday night against the Jets, I thought I had all the momentum going into the playoffs. That was before I made a stupid decision as a manager. At my flex spot, I benched Deion Branch, Lance Moore, and Kevin Boss in favor of Jacoby Ford who scored me a grand total of 0.05 points. Okay, let me explain myself. How am I supposed to expect Deion Branch to have the best game of his career in a blizzard? How can I trust Lance Moore in the Saints wide receiver by commission offense? Thanks Kevin Boss, for scoring me one points last week, then scoring a touchdown on my bench this week.

Lastly, I want to personally thank Ryan Matthews for screwing me over one more time. After I selected you eighth overall, you fail to produce all season long and struggle with injuries but return just in time for me to lose in the playoffs. Thanks, Ryan.

Anyway, here are my week 15 power rankings.

- 1. **New England Patriots** (1): 11-2. Tom Brady has shredded the Steelers, Jets, and Bears defenses, who are all supposedly the best in football. Try stopping the Patriots, I dare you.
- 2. **Atlanta Falcons** (2): 11-2. They took care of business against the Panthers, and get another easy won in Seattle before they host the Saints on Monday Night Football.
- 3. **Pittsburgh Steelers** (3): 10-3. The defense was dominant against the Bengals, and the Steelers look like the only team that can challenge the Patriots in the AFC.
- 4. **New Orleans Saints** (7): 10-3. The Saints offense is clicking on all cylinders right now. I would not want to face this team in the playoffs.
- 5. **Philadelphia Eagles** (5): 9-4. That

- was a nice win in Dallas, and if they Eagles can beat the Giants this week, the NFC East is all but wrapped up.
- 6. **Baltimore Ravens** (6): 9-4. The Ravens avoided a collapse against the Texans, and next host the red hot Saints.
- 7. **New York Giants** (10): 9-4. They dominated the Vikings and now will try to get revenge against the Eagles for control of the NFC East. Doesn't this seem like deja vu from week 11?
- 8. **Chicago Bears** (5): 9-4. The Bears got man-handled against the Patriots in a game to prove they were for real. Next they travel to Minnesota on Monday Night Football.
- 9. **Green Bay Packers** (4): 8-5. The Packers made the Lions defense look like the 2000 Super Bowl champion Ravens in a 7-3 loss. That was a bad loss. Packers fans better pray Aaron Rodgers is okay.
- 10. **New York Jets** (9): 9-4. The most embarrassing part of their loss against the Dolphins was their strength and conditioning coach, Sal Alosi, tripping Dolphins cornerback Nolan Carroll.

- The Jets are in trouble.
- 11. **Jacksonville Jaguars** (12): 8-5. Is this team really 8-5? If they can beat the Colts this week there will be a new AFC South champion.
- 12. **San Diego Chargers** (17): 7-6. The Chargers remaining opponents have a combined record of 10-29. See you in the playoffs, San Diego.
- 13. **Tampa Bay Buccaneers** (13): 8-5. Just when you want to count out the Bucs, they get a nice road win and stay alive. The playoffs a realistic possibility for this team.
- 14. **Indianapolis Colts** (14): 7-6. Now that's the Peyton Manning that I know. The Colts kept their season alive with a win in Tennessee, and must do it again when the first place Jags come to town.
- 15. **Kansas City Chiefs** (11): 8-5. Matt Cassel's appendectomy may have ruined the Chiefs season. They have a must win in St.Louis on Sunday.
- 16. **Miami Dolphins** (22): 7-6. Somehow, the Dolphins managed to win with Chad Henne throwing just 54 passing yards. Go figure.
- 17. **Oakland Raiders** (16): 6-7. The

- Raiders missed a golden opportunity in Jacksonville, but will bounce back with the lowly Broncos coming to town. Remember the last time these two teams met? 59-14, Raiders.
- 18. **Dallas Cowboys** (18): 4-9. There's one thing Jason Garrett didn't cure in Dallas: Defense. They weren't even close to stopping LeSean McCoy on the final drive.
- 19. **Minnesota Vikings** (19): 5-8. The Vikings lost that game when it was announced it would be played at a neutral site, and when Brett Favre's 297 regular season start streak was snapped.
- 20. **Houston Texans** (20): 5-8. Which loss has been the worst for the Texans?
- The Hail Mary in Jacksonville, the collapse in New York, or that overtime loss against the Ravens? Take your pick.
- 21. **St. Louis Rams** (15): 6-7. They struggled in New Orleans as expected, but are still tied for first place in the NFC West.
- 22. **Cleveland Browns** (21): 5-8. One thing is clear after their loss in Buffalo: Peyton Hillis is human after all, and has a fumbling problem that needs to be fixed.
- 23. **San Francisco 49ers** (26): 5-8. The 49ers are still alive in the NFC West, but barely. A loss in San Diego on Thursday Night will seal their fate.
- 24. **Tennessee Titans** (23): 5-8. Changes will be made in Tennessee after this season. I can assure you that.
- 25. **Washington Redskins** (25): 5-8. A disastrous week was highlighted by a nightmare loss. Special teams were killer.
- 26. **Seattle Seahawks** (24): 6-7. I really hope the Seahawks don't win the NFC West. They are just a bad football team.
- 27. **Detroit Lions** (28): 3-10. Finally, the Lions won a close game. Give that defense some credit.
- 28. **Buffalo Bills** (29): 3-10. The Bills had their best defensive game of the season in a 13-6 ugly win over the Browns.
- 29. **Arizona Cardinals** (31): 4-9. Jay Feely accounted for the first 22 of the Cardinals points in a 43-13 rout.
- 30. **Denver Broncos** (27): 3-10. Eric Studeville did not have the same effect Jason Garrett and Leslie Frazier in his first game. The Broncos looked even worse.
- 31. **Cincinnati Bengals** (31): 2-11. I'd like to see the stat of how many passes intended for Terrell Owens have been intercepted. I can't believed I picked this team to make the AFC Championship. Whoops.
- 32. **Carolina Panthers** (32): 1-12. The Panthers would like nothing more than if the season just ended today. This season has been a disaster.



New England Patriots QB Tom Brady vs. Chichago Bears
Taken from: <http://sports.yahoo.com>

Winter Break at The Cinema

By Louis Lesser ‘11

Over Winter Break, there will be much opportunity to watch films, at local theaters in the Philadelphia area and in the comfort of your own home. Here are a few new and interesting movies you can see with some spare time over the break.

Movies

While traditionally, the major time for film releases is the summer season, some of the biggest hits of the year have recently come out around Christmas. For example, two of the most profitable movies of 2009 were *Avatar* and *Sherlock Holmes*, both released in the month of December. Also, the holiday season is known for the limited release of Oscar-bait movies, a trend that will be more visible this year, as the Academy Awards will take place on February 27th. This year, Hollywood plans on releasing many “tent-pole” and awards-caliber films for an eager viewing public. Here is a sampling of what one can expect from mid-December to early 2011.

The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader (Released December 9th)
(From October Issue) The third film in the series based on C.S. Lewis’ novels is also the first movie not to be released by Walt Disney Pictures (the movie, produced by Walden Media, will instead be distributed in 3D by 20th Century Fox). Based on the fifth book in the *Chronicles*, this movie follows the two youngest Pevensies on a naval rescue mission. Look to see if this popular franchise remains profitable under new management.

The Tourist (Released December 9th)
While Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie are arguably the biggest male and female stars in Hollywood, they have never collaborated, until now. After spending much of last year filming all over Europe, this thriller follows an American tourist (Depp), who is being pursued by an English woman (Jolie) in an attempt to flush out a criminal, with whom she once had an affair. Will star power be enough to drive this movie? Find out in theatres.

How Do You Know (December 17th)
Partially filmed just downtown this past year, Reese Witherspoon and Paul Rudd star in the newest from director James L. Brooks, best known for his work *As Good As It Gets* and as a producer of *The Simpsons*. Early praise, specifically from *Entertainment Weekly’s* Dave Karger, who predicted the movie to be a dark-horse Oscar contender, just might be a winner.

TRON: Legacy (December 17th)
After 28 years, numerous rewrites, and the rise of Computer Generated Animation (CGI), Disney has finally released a sequel to *TRON*. While the first movie was considered a box office flop in 1982, the film has garnered a cult following, and is now viewed as a textbook-example of early CGI imagery. The sequel, starring Jeff Bridges, will be released in IMAX and 3D, two formats that have broken box office records this year. However, Disney is seriously gambling its fortunes with the movie, and pundits are still concerned over the key movie-going 18-34 demographic and its interest in what seems to

be a dated sequel.

Yogi Bear (December 17th)
Dan Aykroyd and Justin Timberlake lend their voices to this live action/CGI hybrid update of the classic Hanna Barbera cartoon. Unbeknownst to many, this film actually marks the second star vehicle for the bear from Jellystone Park, who last appeared in 1964’s animated *Hey There, it’s Yogi Bear*. Producers at Warner Brothers hope to capitalize on a similar franchise, *Alvin & The Chipmunks*, for their own cartoon critter bonanza.

Gulliver’s Travels (December 22nd)
Jack Black headlines a comedic cast in another retelling of Jonathan Swift’s famous book. The only difference between previous adaptations is that this version of the story is meant to be funny. Jack Black has not had live-action top billing since 2009’s *Year One*, which was not a great financial success, so look to see if his lead role can draw fans to the cinema.

True Grit (December 22nd)
The latest film from the Coen Brothers (*No Country for Old Men*) is a remake of the classic Western, although the directors have said that this version will be a more faithful adaptation of the original novel. Featuring powerful performances from Matt Damon, Jeff Bridges (in the iconic John Wayne role of Rooster Cogburn), Josh Brolin and newcomer Hailee Steinfeld, this rollicking romp looks to entertain audiences young and old.

Little Fockers (December 22nd)
Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro return for the third installment in the comedic *Meet The Parents* franchise, only this time, parents Greg and Pam find themselves as the caregivers themselves. A “Fockers” film has not been released since 2004, when *Meet the Fockers* became one of the highest grossing comedies of all time, but Universal Pictures hopes that public interest still remains high for the hi-jinks of the film.

The Dilemma (January 14th)
Vince Vaughn and Kevin James star in the latest from director Ron Howard, which tells the story of a man (Vaughn) whose best friend’s wife cheats on him. The catch is, his friend (James) does not know of the affair, and his buddy must decide how to break



The Green Hornet
From: <http://starseeker.com/>

Celebrity Wish List

By Ben Fogel ‘13

Ever wonder what celebrities get for the holidays? Fancy cars? Diamond Rings? Mansions on their own private island? Remember not all gifts come as presents. Let's find out what some stars deserve for the holidays:

- 10. Mark Zuckerberg- A good publicist.
- 9. Lebron James- A friend in Cleveland.
- 8. Taylor Lautner- A shirt.
- 7. Emma Watson- A hat for her haircut.
- 6. Julian Assange (WikiLeaks founder)- A get-out-of-jail-free card and a better lawyer.
- 5. Bill Gates- \$15 iTunes gift card.
- 4. Barack Obama- A face guard for the next time he plays basketball.
- 3. Jayson Werth- Loyalty and a winning team.
- 2. Miley Cyrus- Disney-appropriate songs and videos.
- 1. Justin Bieber- A nail polish line? Oh, wait...He has that. His own trading cards? He has that, too. Chart topping hits about love at the age of 14? Sadly, yes. Thousands of 8-12 years old girl fans? Yup, that too. What about a new 2010 Crimson red electric h3 hummer? (only available at Toys R Us).



From: www.shoppingblog.com

the news. Supported this fall with a nationwide standup comedy tour (which I attended), the film has also garnered controversy over its trailer, but looks to capitalize on the box-office success of its lead actors to become the first hit of the new year.

The Green Hornet (January 14th)
Seth Rogen fills the role of the iconic hero, in this adaptation of the character first introduced in 1936 during a radio program. Directed by visionary filmmaker Michel Gondry (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*), this movie finds the hero in his first adventure, telling his origin story.

DVD Releases (OnDemand/Digital Release To Soon Follow)

- The A-Team (Released December 14th)
- Despicable Me (Released December 14th)
- The Other Guys (Released December 14th)
- The Town (Released December 17th)
- Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga’Hoole (Released December 17th)
- Devil (December 21st)
- Easy A (December 21st)
- Salt (December 21st)
- Step Up 3 (December 21st)
- Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps (December 21st)
- Jersey Shore: Season 2 (December 28th)
- Resident Evil: Afterlife (December 28th)
- Dinner for Schmucks (January 4th)
- The Last Exorcism (January 4th)
- Machete (January 4th)

Have a Great Holiday at the Cinema!

“Come Together” The Beatles Finally Arrive on iTunes

By Jack Kornblatt '13

On November 16th, 2010, the music world changed forever. The night before, Apple posted an announcement on iTunes, which said that at 9:00 A.M. the next day they would announce something that would change everything. In typical Apple style, they gave the pundits time for speculation. The next morning, the announcement was revealed: The Beatles had finally come to iTunes. Since the tech giant's creation in 1976 as a tiny start-up, Apple Corps, the record company owned by The Beatles, has been in a long term dispute with Apple. The dispute stems from trademark concerns -- Apple Corps believed that Apple Computers stole their name and logo design. Another reason the music was not available online is that the surviving Beatles did not want their songs being sold individually, which they felt cheapened the value of each song

and the album as a whole. In fact, the current agreement acknowledges this disillusion towards online music sales -- The Beatles will not be on iTunes forever. Under the current agreement between EMI, Apple Corp, and Apple, the group's music will leave the store at the end of 2011.

Many teenagers aren't excited about this change. Firstly, because the band waited so long to join iTunes, many people have already obtained their favorite Beatles songs and albums through other means. Secondly, many people were disappointed to hear Apple's "Earth Shattering" announcement was simply the addition of The Beatles to iTunes. Two theories abounded; first, that Apple would significantly discount songs on a certain day, and second, that a flash plug-in would be added to the iPod touch, iPhone, and iPad. Despite all this disappointment, however, the band has sold very well thus far. In the first seven days

the band's catalog was available on iTunes, 450,000 albums and 2 million songs were sold, reports EMI. Several Beatles' albums, including the box set which contains every known Beatles song, documentaries, video from the band's first U.S. concert, and much more have appeared on the iTunes top 10 and top 100 albums list. No one can deny that even several decades after the group was disbanded, The Beatles remain one of the most, and arguably the most, popular band of all-time.



In 1964 the band that changed everything came to America. Now they're on iTunes.

Apple's Poster advertising that the Beatles are now on iTunes
From <http://apple.com/>

THE
BEATLES

hundreds to choose from and are sold in many different stores. The prices may range from \$50 to over \$200 depending on the style or brand.

Digital camera

Most of us love taking pictures, which is why a digital camera is a great gift. However, digital cameras have lost some popularity due to the smartphone, but there are some great deals for cameras this holiday season. You can get a camera for as little as \$100.

Twilight/Harry Potter Items

Many people are huge fans of The Twilight Saga and Harry Potter, and there are a lot of different items being sold based on these hit move series. Some great presents include the Twilight and Harry Potter books, movies, games, t-shirts, and posters.

iTunes gift card

Everyone loves listening to music, so an iTunes gift card is a very useful gift. You can buy music, TV shows, movies, books, and apps for iPads, iPhones, and iPods. iTunes gift cards come in different amounts and are even sold at supermarkets.



Go For Baroque

By Hilda Njanike '13

Wondering what's trending for the 2010 winter season? You would never guess that it involves music. A few members of the Friends' Central community might remember learning about the Baroque period in sophomore music rotation, which occurred from the 1600's to the 1750's. You might have learned that the stem of the word means "an oddly shaped pearl." Similarly, fashion is odd and precious and hard to understand. The clothing displayed on the runway may provoke a snicker and

the question, "Who in the world would wear that on the street?" because people rarely dress themselves in wild attire unless it is Halloween (it is okay to breathe a sigh of relief). Despite or because of your feelings on fashion, I wish to inform you all that Baroque fashion is the inspiration for the upcoming months. Its foundation is made up of vintage rock 'n' roll pieces but incorporates materials and designs such as lace from undies and velvet and ruffles from historic uniforms. If you choose to follow this style, try to maintain your personal style and find a nice fit as always.

Go Eagles!



from **Reflection** on page 3

College thus far is absolutely incredible. It's really, really different from FCS, but it's just as amazing. You'll find that it's actually much easier to manage your work in college because you have so much more free time. One of the nicest parts of college life is that you're literally living with your best friends; you're always surrounded by people, which is so much fun. Something to consider is that you'll probably be surprised by how much you'll miss Friends' Central. By the end of senior year most of my friends were pretty prepared to move on from FCS, but now everyone that I've talked to misses it a whole lot. It's such a unique place; it's basically impossible to find a community like the one that exists at Friends' Central. My advice to the seniors? It sounds stupid, but really, really try not to worry about what school you're going to end up at. It's cliché, but it somehow always works out that you'll go where you belong. Also, the end of senior year is absolutely incredible, so just push through the next couple of months. Enjoy the time you have with your friends because they won't be the same as the ones you make at college. Good luck!

--Emma Richman (F & M '14) (pictured below with her roommate)



from **Top 10 Gifts** on page 3
for a present, gift cards are the way to go. You can get a prepaid debit card, which can be used almost anywhere, or you can get one to a specific store or shopping center. This way, the recipient can pick out exactly what he/she wants, and is always happy with the gift.



Philadelphia Eagles 1960's Throwback Jersey
Taken from: www.nflshop.com

Sports jerseys

Sports jerseys are a great way to support your favorite sports teams and players. There are

Phoenix In the Phast Lane by Jamie Ulrich '12

Alex Flick – Swimming

Alex, more commonly referred to as “Flick,” has been leading the charge for an eighth consecutive FSL title for the boys in the pool. Flick has been a First Team All-League selection since his freshman season, joining the likes of Friends’ Central swimming alumni John Armstrong and Max Gilbert. A well-respected member of the athletics community, Alex has also asserted himself as one of the nicest people on campus. Teammate and friend Benjy Yahalomi describes Alex as not only a “powerhouse swimmer,” but also a “great team leader, someone who is always supportive of others and friendly to younger members of the squad.”

As only a sophomore, Alex took home the FSL gold in the 200 yd IM and the 100 yd Freestyle events. He does best in freestyle events, ranging in distance all the way from the 100 to mile swim. Flick has posted impressive times of 17:33.35 in the 1500 meter free and 58.51 in the 100 meter free. Only a junior this year, Alex will continue to be a large part of the Friends’ Central swimming dynasty for the remainder of his high school career.



Monaye Merrit – Basketball

Monaye has been part of some of the greatest teams in Friends’ Central basketball history. She explained, “Coming in as a freshman, I thought I was going to help Friends’ Central become very decorated, with basketball championships and awards for the school and me. I thought I would come out the best girl player that anyone had ever seen.” Monaye certainly has decorated FCS. As a sophomore, she was a key player on a team that went 26-2. She followed that up with helping the Phoenix squad to a Friends’ Schools League title as a junior.

Her skills have wowed fans since she arrived on campus. She has done her share to land herself amongst the names of great FCS female basketballers. On an individual level, Monaye has been recognized as an All-League athlete twice, and has committed to play basketball at Temple next year. Monaye added, “In the athletic aspect, (Temple) has a great program on the rise that is now competing at the highest level of Division 1 basketball.” The *Focus* staff wishes Monaye a terrific senior season, and a bright future with the Temple Owls.



Artists In The Spotlight by Keira Sultan '12

Aengus Culhane ‘11

For Aengus Culhane art is more than simply a form of self-expression: “For me, art goes beyond just having fun. It gives me a sort of solitude and fulfillment that I can’t get anywhere else.” Aengus took up art at a young age, and was helped along the way by two neighbors, who taught him varied skills and techniques. For a period of time he stopped producing artwork when he couldn’t find enough time for it, and didn’t start up again until the summer after tenth grade. However, he made up for lost time by then participating in art classes in Philadelphia and taking our school’s studio art course during his junior year, and now Studio Art II as a senior year.

He usually works with either people or still life, using a variety of mediums, including charcoal, pastel, and oil paint. Aengus explains that he always creates still lifes in oil paint, but with sketches goes through phases using different mediums. In the same way that art has impacted Aengus, his emotionally evocative pieces such as the



portrait below are able to do the same to his viewers. If you want to see more of his pieces, check out his work in both the studio art gallery and the upcoming issue of INK. Best of luck to this aspiring artist, who plans on continuing to develop his artistic skill in college.

Liz Phillips ‘12

When you look at a piece of artwork by Liz Phillips, you will rarely be struck with a feeling of déjà vu. In detailed work such as the one below (titled No Signal), her collaboration of thick bold colors and use of controlled lines creates a highly unique and interpretive approach to art that is all her own. Her eye-catching style makes sense when she explains, “One thing that really draws me to art is the pure aesthetics of it. I loves making things that look interesting to me.” Liz uses a variety of mediums in her pieces in order to achieve her personal style, often combining materials such as graphite, charcoal and watercolors. However, Liz does not create art only to be pleasing to the eye. She reveals, “For me, art is a chance to express myself and my ideas, and the way I see the world.”

Although art has always played a large role in Liz’s life, she started getting serious about it at the beginning of her sophomore year, when she realized how much she enjoyed it and that she could possibly make a career out of it one day. Since then, she has put her talent to work by participating in several art classes, as well as spending a month at The Pratt Institute in New York this summer, where she took two classes in foundations of art and sequential art. One thing that makes Liz so interesting as an artist is that she does not limit herself to one particular art form or subject matter. While her piece pictured here centers around an object, many of her pieces also include people- as she especially loves to draw eyes and faces. Liz also loves photography, which she often shoots using a Polaroid or one of her two film cameras. She hopes to exhibit her photos at a gallery in Islesboro, Maine, next summer.

Although the mediums and subjects of Liz’s works may be constantly changing, one thing will always remain the same: her pieces will be continue to be seen in unique ways by different individuals. But to her, this is what art is all about. She says, “One thing I love about art is how everyone can walk away from a piece of artwork with different interpretations, different emotions, and different ideas. In art, there are no right or wrong answers.”



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