

Girls Basketball Storms The Court

by Alicia Nuncio

With winter sports starting up here at GICC, all athletes are starting to train again. At GICC, wrestling, basketball, and swimming are beginning their respective seasons. Coach Mayfield leads the girls' basketball team. While only two seniors return, but other players join or continue the team in the hope of another successful year.

Jacie Palik (10) is a returning sophomore who trained all Summer and Fall with her team.

"As a team, we prepare for basketball season by conditioning every day for about 3 weeks before the season starts. A way I prepare myself is just by putting work in the gym [during] pre-season. This means shooting, ball handling, and other drills to get myself back into the swing of basketball after softball season," Palik said.

Palik has been playing basketball since her early childhood and started at the YMCA. She has been playing for GICC since middleschool. Her team were very encouraging and motivated her to try and make this a successful year.

"What motivates me the most is my teammates. At practice every day, we all do our best to make each other better, and knowing that I'm making the team better makes me want to do my best. I also think our team has a very tight bond this year, so that makes us want to work for each other and not ourselves. We have a very unselfish team and I think that makes us better," Palik explained.

Bryndal Moody (11) is one of the returning juniors who is playing point guard this year.

For Moody, what motivated her the most, was being able to look back at her improvement and knowing that she positively impacted her team. She enjoyed every aspect of playing and being a part of the basketball team. Whether it was playing, or simply being with her teammates, Moody was enthusiastic throughout it all, including when times were tough.

"The most challenging part about basketball is the conditioning. It is mentally challenging to push through when you are tired and, in my opinion, one of the hardest things in basketball," Moody added.

It was Moody's goal, along with her fellow team members, to improve as a whole. Support from Moody's family, friends, teammates and coaching staff motivated her to improve and further her goals of growing with the team.

"A goal for this season would be to see improvement as a team in each game. That is kind of a broad goal, but we always want to get better throughout the season. We want to just keep playing better as a team," Moody commented.

Senior Carolyn Maser (12), who is also a post guard, has been soaking in every moment she could from her last year of high school basketball.

Maser strived to be better because of her teammates. Hearing and feeling the support of the other members allowed her to persevere throughout the challenging season.

"Basketball is a long and tough season but it goes by fast when we stay positive and enjoy the little



moments!" Maser stated.

Whether it be practicing or playing on the court, All of the girl's basketball players, including Maser, made it a point to stay positive and always cheer each other on.

"My teammates and I stay very positive during practice and games. We always cheer each other on and celebrate each other's successes!"



GICC Continues to Support the Community

by Harrison McClure

Charity is a large focal point of GICC's values, which is evident in the amount of charitable opportunities given to the students and staff. This past Thanksgiving, GICC held a food drive in which students had to bring certain items depending on the grade. The seniors brought money for turkeys, juniors brought money for cool whip, sophomores brought potatoes, freshmen brought two cans of green beans, and the middle schoolers brought various non-perishable foods. Overall, every student had to contribute to help further the thanksgiving food drive. School fundraisers, like the thanksgiving food drive, are instrumental in supporting different charity groups, as well as the Diocese of Grand Island.

"Thanksgiving baskets help our Catholic parish families by providing food for a Thanksgiving Dinner as we are giving back to our parishes that support our school," Deb Houdek (F) commented.

During the first semester of the school year, many of our students contribute in some way to helping either the school or the community. The school's student council holds a sock drive in October called Socktober. Socktober gives students and staff the opportunity to donate socks that, at the end of the month, will be given to different charities. Furthermore, the girls basketball team raises money by selling peaches throughout the community. Just about everywhere you look, you can find stu-



A photo of a few items that the FBLA association has been waiting to donate. Photo by Harrison McClure

dents giving it their best to benefit others. Due to their hard work, the school is able to not only support itself but those around them.

"I love a good service project, like Socktober—[Also] I look forward to the peach sales every year as the Colorado Peaches are just the best!," Houdek stated.

GICC's FBLA is one of the school's biggest contributors to the community. So far, FBLA has set a goal each month to accumulate items that would relieve different charity organizations in town. One way that FBLA stocks up on essential commodities is by having their members go around neighborhoods asking for charitable donations. The donated items can range from hygiene products, like soap and toothpaste, to

health products, like medicine and tissues. In addition to donating their own time to search for vital goods, FBLA members also donated directly from their own homes. In their efforts, FBLA is an excellent example of GICC's mission to give back to the community.

"FBLA does a great job supporting our local community and Hope Harbor with food and personal items drive—" Houdek expressed.

Overall, GICC's dedication to charity and community is evident in its staff and student body. Whether it be the many dedicated groups and causes such as FBLA or Stuco, it is more than obvious that GICC has created an environment rich in charitable spirits.

The LANCE

The Movie We've All Been Waiting For

by Arushi Birthi

October 27, 2023 was a long-awaited day for fans of Five Nights at Freddy's. The Five Nights at Freddy's movie was made available to the general public on the 27th to view in theaters. Numerous people showed interest in the new and popular movie, including Cutler Obermiller-Snyder (10), and Harrison McClure (10).

"I was hoping to see a movie portrayal of my favorite game series, especially after I've watched every single theory on the game so far," McClure stated.

Similarly to the game, the Five Nights at Freddy's movie was also intended to fall under the Horror/Mystery genre. The movie, however, left many people with different opinions on how scary the movie actually was.

"On a scale of 1 to 10, I rate the movie a 5, it wasn't really that



scary," Obermiller said.

Josh Hutcherson, the actor who played Mike, was a widely loved aspect of the film.

"My favorite part of the Five Nights at Freddy's movie was Josh Hutcherson, he's a really good actor and I really think he's cute,"

Obermiller expressed.

"A part of the movie I really liked was Mike AKA Josh Hutcherson, and I absolutely loved the way he portrayed the character," McClure said.

A character who was liked among many of the movie-goers in the Five Nights at Freddy's movie was the blue bunny animatronic, Bonnie. Many found Bonnie's violent personality to be quite appealing.

"My favorite character from the movie is probably Bonnie because he's violent and I think it's entertaining," Obermiller described.

"My favorite character from Five Nights at Freddy's has got to be Bonnie, I love Bonnie. He's my favorite animatronic because he's the only animatronic that's been seen killing someone," McClure explained.

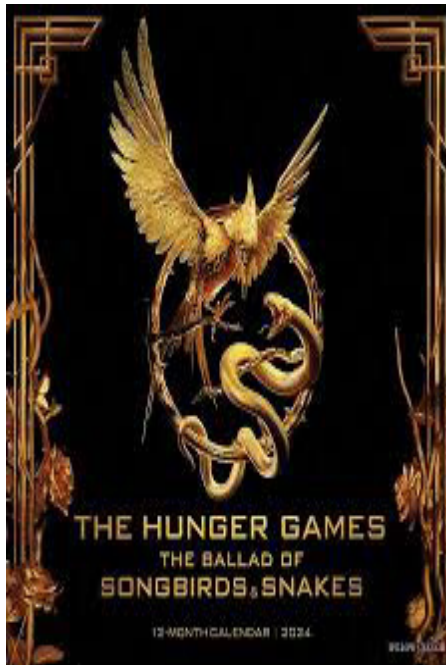


The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes: A Successful Debut

by Molly Graybill

The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes is a recent movie adaptation of the prequel book by Suzanne Collins. The book was released in May of 2020, almost five years after the final release of the original Hunger Games movies in November 2015. Although fans of the series were unsure if the book would be adapted into a movie, it was greenlit and released in the U.S. on November 17th, 2023.

I thought that the Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes was a very interesting film. Compared to a lot of people who watched it, I didn't know very much about it beforehand. The book was released in 2020, but I wasn't aware of the book or the movie adaptation until earlier this school year. The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes follows Coriolanus Snow and Lucy Gray in the tenth annual Hunger Games. From opposite sides of society after a revolt changes the nation, we follow the two characters in their journey through the hunger games. It shows us a lot about the origins of the games, as well as insight into some of the characters in the original movies. A friend recommended the book to me, so I had read it before watching the film. Although I was aware of the plot, the movie still felt very interesting. The creative choices they made while filming gave it a lot of suspense, even though I knew what would happen. However, they did omit a decent amount of internal monologue when creating the movie adaptation, which I think changed



the way the audience viewed the characters.

I had watched the original Hunger Games series previously with my family, which made me excited to see the new film. This was likely beneficial to the film's overall success, because many fans of the Hunger Games promoted the film on social media before its release. Whether or not you've seen the original series, I would recommend this movie because it's a suspenseful and interesting film, and even if you're aware of what's coming next, you're still on the edge of your seat.

Overall, the Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes was a successful movie that is expected to make a \$60 million dollar profit in the box office. Though costars Rachel Zegler and Tom Blyth have both had success in the film industry before, many fans are excited to see what they will be working on next.



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Return of The OG Season



by Arushi Birthi

For those who've played the immensely popular video game Fortnite, November 3, 2023, was a very nostalgic day. This day marked the return of the OG (original) season. This game was played by people all over the world, including Kelton Kearns (10).

The return of OG Fortnite season was very exciting for players who had played the game all the way back on its release in 2017. During the event, major game elements such as the map, the area played in, returned to its original form with just a few changes.

"On a scale from 1 to 10, I would say 8 was how happy I was when I heard the news about OG Fortnite coming back. I was kinda bummed that some of the locations were not the same though," Kearns stated.

A feeling that was commonly felt with the return of OG Fortnite was the feeling of nostalgia.

"Playing the OG version was very

nostalgic for me because it brought back tons of memories of playing it when I was young," Kearns expressed.

Throughout the years since Fortnites inception, many different maps and weapons have come and gone. However, with the new OG Fortnite event, the OG map and weapons re-

Kealton Kearns (10)

turned. Some found these alterations to be a nice change of pace to the current weapons and map

"My favorite part of OG Fortnite is the map and the weapons because it's easier to fight and the weapons do more damage," Kearns explained.

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