

# RAMPAGE



## Homemade Holiday *School Store Gets into the Spirit*

JORDAN BURNS STAFF REPORTER



Freshman Brett Jaksec hands junior Jordan Burns an ornament at the school store on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Brett Jaksec and his fellow crew of students took a week to create three awesome types of ornaments, all of which are for sale at the school store. They will be available for sale until next Friday December 20.

One of the ornaments looks like a reindeer, made out of a circular piece of wood.

Another looks like a red and green and white bracelet, but is actually an ornament.

The third one is a traditional round ornament, full of glitter.

The ornaments are a \$1 each.

The school store is open most mornings and during lunch, Monday-Thursday.

### This Week's RAMS Way Winners

Homeroom 23:  
Mrs. Hahn

Homeroom 103:  
Mr. Schmiedel

Homeroom 404:  
Mrs. LeVan

Homeroom 417:  
Mrs. Kronk-Love

Homeroom 423:  
Mr. Tsambis

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Ride the Lightning Anniversary Album Celebrates 35 Years

JOSH PALKO SENIOR STAFF REPORTER

This may not be a shocker to Metallica fans, but their sophomore album *Ride the Lightning* turns 35 this year. The album was released on July 27th, 1984, the year after the release of their debut album. For those who don't remember or know, Metallica used to be a thrash metal band before the *Black Album*. This means their songs were faster, louder, and dealt with more serious topics. The album contains the combined musicianship of lead singer and rhythm guitarist James Hetfield, lead guitarist Kirk Hammet, Bassist Cliff Burton, and drummer Lars Ulrich.

The album starts with an acoustic piece, making some concerned if they are playing the right album. Then, the electric guitars fade in, followed by the explosive main riff of *Fight Fire With Fire*. This is how the album starts, letting you know that Metallica doesn't hold back and goes out all guns blazing. The album is filled with classic metal anthems. From the electrifying title track, to the ominous *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, the slower and melodic *Fade to Black*, the ripping *Creeping Death*, and the haunting instrumental *Call of Ktulu*, there is something here for everyone. Even the track that even Metallica themselves hate, *Escape*, sounds great with the rest of the

album. The lyrics depict various topics including war, depression, electric chairs, and even references to the bible and Moses.

*Ride the Lightning* holds up as one of Metallica's best with *Master of Puppets*, their self-titled album (or often called *The Black Album*), *And Justice for All*, and *Kill 'em All*. It's also considered one of the best thrash and metal albums of all time. The album gained widespread acclaim from critics and fans when it first came out. This album may not be for everyone though. If you only know Metallica for *Enter Sandman* and *Nothing Else Matters*, then this album may not be for you. The album does contain some slower songs like *Fade to Black* and *Call of Ktulu* to get away from the thrash and speed of some of the other songs on the album. If you are willing to listen to something different from Metallica, then you'll be rewarded with an album of classic and catchy songs that I go back to constantly.

The album has truly stood the test of time. It still sounds as good as it did back in 1984 and never gets old. I easily put this album near the top of my favorite albums. Depending on my thoughts and

feelings, I would even say this is my favorite Metallica album. The album got recently remastered for its 30th anniversary.

I asked some fellow students about their thoughts on the album. Senior CJ Anderson appreciates the album as well.

"I like the songwriting and the riffs," he said. "It's really catchy for a thrash album."

Surprisingly, senior Jacob Campbell says it's one of their softer albums.

"It's one of their easier albums to get into," he said. "Some of their other albums are more violent than this one."

I would agree with Jacob when he says it's easier to get into but it's definitely not one of their slower albums with tracks like *Fight Fire With Fire*, *Trapped Under Ice*, and *Creeping Death* but it does have it's fair share of slower songs compared to other Metallica albums of the 80's.

So, give this album a try. If it's not your thing, don't worry, everyone's got their own opinions. If you do end up appreciating this musical journey, you'll be electrified by the pure chaos of the album.

## Santa Claus Conquers the Martians Anniversary

JOSH PALKO SENIOR STAFF REPORTER

The year was 1964, 55 years ago. America entered the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Act was signed into law, Beatlemania begins in the U.S., some thieves stole the head of a little mermaid statue in Copenhagen, and one of the most influential films was released. That classic was none other than the Christmas film *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians*. Ever since it was released, there was no other film like it; it stood the test of time, and became a household name across the country. It's hard not to find someone who doesn't know this gem of a movie.

Okay. I'm done playing up to this movie. To be honest with you, and this may be shocking to some, this is a bad movie. This is a terrible movie.

But wait. I shouldn't be too harsh about a movie called *Santa Claus Conquers the*

*Martians*. If I have to give one good thing about this movie, it would be the title. Curiosity alone will get you to watch this. It sounds awesome. Santa Claus, the jolly man in red who delivers presents to kids and lives in the North Pole, fighting against a group of Martians. IN SPACE! What's not to love?

Then you start to watch the movie or read a summary online. The disappointment settles in. This isn't an action/sci-fi film with Santa fighting aliens. It's instead a family film about Santa being kidnapped by Martians and having two kids come and rescue him. Nothing like what I thought when I first read the title. I first watched it when it was covered on *Mystery Science Theater 3000*, a show that makes fun of bad movies. Even upon its release, the film

garnered mostly negative reviews from critics. The film is also considered one of the worst movies of all time.

The plot can be explained in one sentence and nothing of value is lost. Nothing exciting or interesting really happens except for some hilarious costumes like the robot and the polar bear. The only good this movie will do for you is if you constantly poke fun and joke about it, like I do. If your Christmas movie library is running dry, this movie will help spice things up a bit. If you're only interested by the title alone, then you'll be vastly disappointed upon watching it. If you enjoy making fun of movies, especially bad ones, then this is the movie for you.

## Ye or Nay? *Will Kanye Run for President in 2024?*

LIZZI MONTANTI STAFF REPORTER

Kanye West, commonly referred to as “Ye,” spoke at the Fast Company Innovation Festival on November 7th. He attempted to explain his plan to run for President in the year 2024, but the crowd immediately erupted in laughter.

West responded to the crowd's reaction by asking, “What y'all laughin' at?” and then proceeded to explain that he will create more jobs for Americans. (source: ET)

On August 30th, 2015, West announced that he would be running for President of the USA in 2020. He made the big announcement on stage during the MTV Video Music Awards. Kim Kardashian West went on the Ellen show and said that she never heard Kanye express an interest in running for President.

"I don't know what I finna (will) lose after this. It don't matter though; It's not about me. It's about ideas. New ideas. People with ideas. People who believe in truth," he said. "And yes, as you probably could've guessed by this moment, I have decided in 2020 to run for president." (source: CNN politics)

Do you think Kanye will actually run for President in 2024? I think that we shouldn't give up on Ye just because he failed to keep his promise of running in 2020. Kanye's presidency may have some perks; imagine watching *Keeping Up with the*



Kanye West at Fast Company Innovation Festival. Photo from [www.hiphopwired.com](http://www.hiphopwired.com)

*Kardashians* in the White House. Hopefully, Kanye will give us an update on his campaign soon.

## What Grinds My Gears *The Worst of the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*

LIZZI MONTANTI STAFF REPORTER

Snow day false alarms: At least one snow day false alarm happens every December. The false hope always comes about in similar ways... You'll be minding your business in class and then a teacher or friend tells you that there might be a snow day tomorrow. This is frustrating for so many reasons. Should I study for that test, or is it a waste of time? It is quite easy to slack off on work if you believe that school will be cancelled. I believe the element of surprise is what makes a snow day so great; let's keep it that way.

Shopping is impossible: Ok, that's a bit of a stretch. But seriously, stores are constantly packed throughout December. You might only need one thing on a Tuesday at 8PM, and you would still have to deal with frustrated customers and other flustered shoppers.

The dark: Every year when winter rolls around, we act so surprised to see that it's dark out at 5PM. It's nothing new; it happens every year. Typically, we complain about how quickly the sun sets because we start to get drowsy at 6 PM, which, especially for a student, is not good. I have a hard time doing my homework when I feel like its 10 PM before I've even had dinner.

The thought of midterms: I know that midterms are not something you should put off studying for. However, when the bell rings after 11th period and school lets out for winter break, the fact that midterms even exist makes my blood boil. Thinking about them is quite a mood-killer.

Waiting for the snow plow truck: You become a prisoner in your own home. It feels like it takes hours for the truck to finally reach your street.

Wrapping presents: There's two types of people: those that make present wrapping an art form and those that can't wrap presents at all. I hardly have any patience when it comes to gift wrapping. It takes up too much time and it requires much effort.

Cramming in work: I would rather have a lot of work during the week than on the weekends, and the same goes for holiday break. Luckily, teachers usually don't slam you with work during the break in December. Instead, you have to really turn on the jets the week before holiday break. This week is the last hurrah before the New Year. So much happens during this week, both fun and stressful.

# OPINION

## Too Close for Comfort *My Experience Black Friday Shopping*

ABBY LANE COPY EDITOR

Unlike most teenage girls, I am not one to shop. It is not one of my favorite things to do and I only ever shop if I need to. Last Friday, Ross Park Mall was holding some great deals and I had to buy some Christmas presents. I brought along my friends sophomores Sofia Joppi and Anna Mckenna. Joppi and I left for the mall around 9 o'clock and boy, was it busy. Most stores had lines out to the front from the register. Stores like PINK, Bath and Body Works and American Eagle had lines just to walk through the door. Mckenna had been at the Mall since 6 am and around 10am, met up with me and Joppi.

I was able to purchase gifts for 2 Secret Santa's, a few items for my parents, stuff a bus, items for friends and family and a few gifts for

myself. Overall, I felt pretty productive. Mckenna, Joppi and I shopped in PINK, Macy's, Hollister, Claire's, The Lego Store, Francesca's, Bath and Body Works and much more. The crowds were unbelievably large, and I can hardly remember all the stores I went to.

For lunch I went to China Max, which was the restaurant with the shortest line. Panera and Chick-fil-a had lines past the bathrooms and escalators.

All in all, I came home with some great quality items for a cheap price. I would say it was a good day. I had a great experience and would definitely go back next year.

## My First Live Game:

### *Rams Way Winner Shares Experience*

AMITVA PAL STAFF WRITER

My story starts while I was on vacation in Aruba enjoying the food, beaches, I was also missing three days of school. This was something I hadn't done all year up to that time: miss a day of school. As I reached the hotel on the last day, I got a text message from a friend. He said that I won perfect attendance and got two free tickets to the Penguins game the following Friday.

First I was confused. How did this happen?

Despite my confusion, I was grateful for the opportunity to try something new.

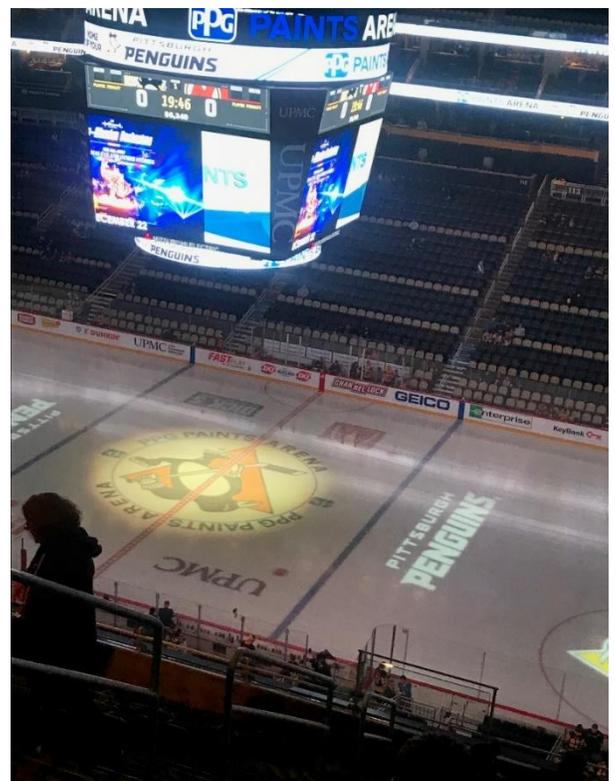
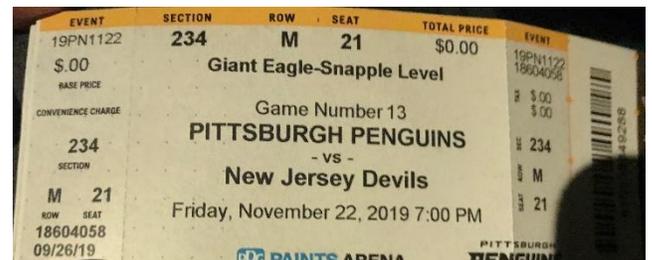
I was never into any sports games or watching the Penguins outside of the rink, but this would be my first experience and I thought let's give it a try.

I ended up going with my friend to the game who was a hockey player so I thought I would watch the hockey game with him. As we entered PPG Paints and went to the rink I never expected it to be this huge. At first I thought as if I was in a video game, watching all the players sliding on the rink. The experience was amazing and breathing the icy cold air felt good.

After we watched the game for a while, my friend and I ate pretzels and nachos and cheese.

I didn't really understand anything about hockey except if the puck went in the net, it's a point. But luckily, my friend freshman Gavin Lavelozi helped me understand the game more while we were spectating the match. The Penguins defeated the opposing team easily. Once they scored two times in a minute.

When the game was almost over, the score was 4-1 Penguins. I wanted to see the whole match, but my friend told me that if we watched the game to the very end, then it would be crowded and that it would take



*Free ticket and the rink at PPG Paints Arena.  
Photos by Amitva Pal.*

a long time to get out. So we went out knowing the Penguins won that easily.

At the end I had a fun time watching my first game and hopefully I will have more of an interest in watching sports and talking with everyone about it.

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