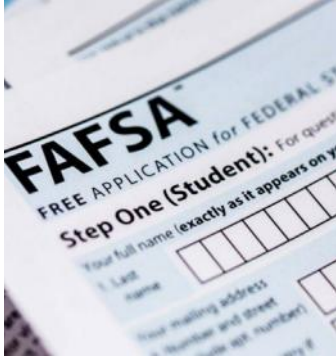


# The Stinger



6 December 2024

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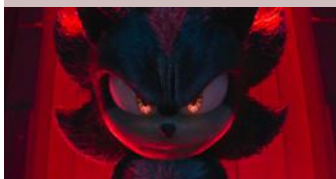
"Students are allowed access to the U.S. Department of Education system and can begin applying for FAFSA" (page 3).



"Rachel Varsek says she enjoys, 'Something uplifting and funny.'" (page 8).



"Alexa Cornejo, enjoys the holiday hit 'Last Christmas' by Wham" (page 9).



"Sonic 3 comes to theaters on Friday, December 20, 2024" (page 11).

## Bees share finals experiences

By Grace Christianson  
Stinger Reporter

Finals are right around the corner, and while that may feel overwhelming, it doesn't have to be! With the right strategies, you can come into your exam feeling confident and prepared.

When asked if ready for her first finals, ZB freshman Maggie Taylor says she feels "ready because I know I can study and prepare." Although some may feel prepared, other ZB's may not know what to expect.

Staying organized is key. The first step is to notice the exam schedule, and make your own! Consider test dates for your class and start to study in chunks; it's better to focus on one subject at a time and helps avoid last-minute cramming. The most important part of the process is finding your perfect study spot. Whether it's in

a library, Starbucks, or at home, find a place where it is easy to focus. Once you're settled, it's important to use active learning techniques to make study time count. Active learning comes from taking regular breaks, staying healthy, studying with your peers, and asking for help when needed.

Senior Arianna Kennedy-Okon has her final preparation prepared: "To study for finals, ask what is going to be on the exam and take multiple reviews and practice tests to ensure you understand what is being asked. For each class, make sure you balance your time with all the materials because it is such a big part of your final grade."

By incorporating these strategies into your study routine, you can approach your finals with confidence. Preparation is key to success,

so start early and stay consistent! Good-luck!

### FINALS REMINDERS

Principal Felske wants to remind students of the following:

-Finals and test taking skills periods are required for all Zee-Bees.

-Be on time for your finals. Students who are not in classrooms when the final starts will not be allowed to enter.

-Students should report to their normal study hall classroom during finals.

-Buses run before and after the last final of the day.

-Test make-ups MUST be scheduled with your teachers beforehand.

-Food will be served before school and during lunch periods. Grab-and-go lunches will be available.

-Hall passes will NOT be allowed during exams.

## Final Exams Schedule

### Wednesday (12/18)

Test Taking Skills (2nd)  
7:50-8:35

1st period  
8:45-10:10

3rd Period  
10:20-11:45

5th Period  
11:55-1:20



### Thursday (12/19)

Test Taking Skills (1st)  
7:50-8:35

2nd period  
8:45-10:10

8th Period  
10:20-11:45

6th Period  
11:55-1:20



### Friday (12/20)

Test Taking Skills (3rd)  
7:50-8:35

7th period  
8:45-10:10

4th Period  
10:20-11:45

Pre-Scheduled Test Make-ups  
11:50-1:51



\*Buses will take students home multiple times a day.

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Mr. Sevens



# Bees struggle in winter months

**By Shelby Wargo**  
*Stinger Reporter*

It's not uncommon this time of year for Zee-Bees to start to feel a little down. The shorter days and colder temperatures can cause more than just winter blues. They could cause seasonal affective disorder (SAD). According to The National Institute of Mental Health ([www.nimh.nih.gov](http://www.nimh.nih.gov)), the most common cases start in the fall and winter, SAD behaviors can affect how a person feels, thinks, and behaves. SAD has some of the same symptoms of depression: oversleeping, overeating, and social withdrawal.

Mrs. Durston, former psychology teacher, says "seasonal affective disorder is different from other forms of depression because it only occurs during winter months."

Winter SAD can be confused with "holiday blues," but it shouldn't be because holiday blues have symptoms of sadness and anxiety, caused by the holidays. How do you know if you develop SAD? Lots of people can experience SAD, it's very common and victims may never know.

In most common cases, SAD begins in young adulthood and teens. SAD is found more commonly in women than men, and often in the north where the daylight hours are the shortest in the winter. It is also found that people who already have depression or

bipolar disorder are more likely to experience SAD. SAD is easier to acquire if someone already has mental illnesses. Research shows that serotonin levels go down, which helps regulate mood. This can be affected by the shorter daylight hours and sunlight. Vitamin D can help with this because it is believed that it promotes serotonin activity.

This raises an important question: how we can feel better? Ms. Durston says "little things such as exercise, sunlight lamps, high folate foods, or dark chocolate help. It contains a mood boosting chemical called tryptophan which can be helpful for people dealing with the disorder!"

# Keeping busy this season

**By Evelyn Roman**  
*Stinger Reporter*

The winter season has finally approached. During the winter months, it's easy for our ZB students to stay inside and enjoy the warm comfort of our homes. While the chilly weather may be a reason to stay indoors, the cold weather offers a way to immerse ourselves in the seasonal spirit through enjoying a variety of winter activities with our friends and family. Here are a few local activities that will get you out of the house and create life-lasting winter memories.

It's not often that Zoos are open during the winter season due to the cold

weather. Yet, the Racine Zoo, just a few minutes driving distance from Kenosha, Wisconsin, provides a new way to experience the winter season. The Zoo is open year round and showcases a variety of animals from species such as amphibians and fish to mammals and reptiles. Visiting the Zoo during the winter time is an exciting activity to do with your friends and family because you can learn and meet animals such as African penguins, Andean bears, Monkeys, and more.

Snowboarding is one of the most exciting winter activities, giving you a view of the snowy slopes. At Wilmot Mountain in Wis-

consin, anyone can enjoy snowboarding as it has accommodations for both experienced and beginners.

Ice skating is a traditional winter activity, perfect to celebrate the winter season while having both fun and a full-body workout. Nancy Nguyen says, "I'm excited to celebrate the winter season with my friends and especially ice skating." At Gurnee Mills, the Top Shelf Hockey Arena opens their ice rink daily for the public for only \$11 per person. Through Ice skating, you can improve your coordination and balance, while having a fun time learning the sport with your friends.



# Students prepare to complete FAFSA

By Zoey Santiago  
Stinger Reporter

After being postponed from October 1st to December 1st, FAFSA is ready for the ZeeBee 2025 seniors to sign up and receive financial aid. FAFSA is a gateway to many need-based financial aid opportunities, such as the full Pell Grant and the partial Pell Grant. These opportunities are heavily encouraged by Ms. Zameck, who is the College Counselor here at Zion Benton and assists students through the college and post-secondary planning process.

When asked why students should apply for FAFSA, Ms. Zameck answered that it can help take down the “sticker price” of colleges, allowing students to receive

higher education without the worries of expenses stopping them. Every school has a different deadline for the FAFSA application. “If students plan on attending CLC, the financial aid award notice (based on FAFSA info) will not be issued until the student enrolls in classes for the upcoming semester.” Zameck added, “The only way to access Federal Pell Grant and/or IL MAP Grant is by filing the FAFSA, but the money goes directly to the college/program to pay the student’s account.”

To start students must create an FSA ID which must be done by the student themselves, parents also need their own FSA ID. If there are concerns surrounding the ITIN number used in the appli-

cation, Ms. Zameck asks that students contact her and she can help complete the application. In doing this students are allowed access to the U.S. Department of Education system and can begin applying for FAFSA. But this isn’t the only opportunity for receiving financial relief, many other scholarship opportunities can be found on SchoolLinks, which supplies both regional and national scholarships students can apply for. After much of the confusion of last year’s FAFSA issues, Ms. Zameck suggests students start right away, “By the week of December 9th it should be all good, maybe even the first week of December”.

As a final message, Ms. Zameck wants to remind students, “As long as it gets

done.” For additional help, make an appointment to meet with Ms. Zameck. Meetings can be set up under “Student Support” on the ZBTHS website ([www.zb126.org](http://www.zb126.org)).

## FAFSA Quick Guide



## Pell Grant Income Info



## ◀ Stinger en español ▶

# Los estudiantes se preparan para completar FAFSA

Por Zoey Santiago

Traducido por: Adamari Melendez & Ms. Edith Martinez

Después de haber sido pospuesta del 1 de octubre al 1 de diciembre, la FAFSA está lista para que los estudiantes de último año de ZeeBee 2025 se inscriban y reciban ayuda financiera. La FAFSA es una puerta de entrada a muchas oportunidades de ayuda financiera basadas en la necesidad, como la Beca Pell completa y la Beca Pell parcial. Estas oportunidades son muy fomentadas por la Sra. Zameck, quien es la Consejera Universitaria aquí en Zion Benton y ayuda a los estudiantes a través del proceso de planificación universitaria y postsecundaria.

Cuando se le preguntó por qué los estudiantes de-

berían solicitar la FAFSA, la Sra. Zameck respondió que puede ayudar a reducir el “precio de etiqueta” de las universidades, lo que permite a los estudiantes recibir educación superior sin las preocupaciones de los gastos que los detengan. Cada escuela tiene una fecha límite diferente para la solicitud de la FAFSA. “Si los estudiantes planean asistir a CLC, la notificación de concesión de ayuda financiera (basada en la información de la FAFSA) no se emitirá hasta que el estudiante se inscriba en clases para el próximo semestre”. Zameck agregó: “La única manera de acceder a la Beca Federal Pell y/o la Beca IL MAP es mediante la presentación de la FAFSA, pero el dinero va

directamente a la universidad/programa para pagar la cuenta del estudiante”.

Para comenzar, los estudiantes deben crear una FSA ID, que debe ser realizada por el propio estudiante; los padres también necesitan su propia FSA ID. Si hay inquietudes en torno al número ITIN utilizado en la solicitud, la Sra. Zameck pide que los estudiantes se comuniquen con ella y ella puede ayudar a completar la solicitud. Al hacer esto, los estudiantes pueden acceder al sistema del Departamento de Educación de los EE. UU. y pueden comenzar a solicitar la FAFSA. Pero esta no es la única oportunidad para recibir ayuda financiera, se pueden encontrar muchas otras oportunidades de

becas en SchoolLinks, que ofrece becas regionales y nacionales para las que los estudiantes pueden solicitar. Después de gran parte de la confusión de los problemas de la FAFSA del año pasado, la Sra. Zameck sugiere que los estudiantes esperen para presentar la solicitud: “Para la semana del 9 de diciembre debería estar todo bien, tal vez incluso la primera semana de diciembre”.

Como mensaje final, la Sra. Zameck quiere recordarles a los estudiantes que “siempre y cuando se haga”. Para obtener ayuda adicional, la Sra. Zameck puede estar en el Centro de Carreras Universitarias y se pueden programar reuniones en la página de enlaces de ZB.

◀ ENGLISH ▶

◀ ESPAÑOL ▶

## NOVEMBER WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

What are you Thankful for?

I am thankful for pretty much everything I know, including some that either can be big or small, forgetful or memorable, and many more that I can thank everyone for. But personally what I should be thankful for is the world and my family who had made me and I now exist in this world I am standing on right now. Even though I may have felt sad or stressed at some times, what most I always remember is the joy they give me, mostly memorable moments and stuff I had been given to live a good and loving life I will love the most. Some things that I am thankful for are friends and family, giving me a head start in living and caring for me, and enjoying spending most of my time with them, and including friends who had given me a good time with hanging out and joy, literally something that I love and needed most, especially during hard or difficult times where I need someone to talk to.

Another thing that I am thankful for is school. How else am I writing about this topic? Anyways, school taught me most things in life that I should be learning and using for the world things like, math, science, physical, social studies, and many more. School gave me opportunities and many options for my career and future that are in my hands, and that I could prepare early to get a head start on that career that I chose for my future. The career I focus on specifically is engineering, or trying to make my way into working for vehicles like a mechanic or aerospace engineer.

A thing that I am also grateful for is horror related stuff. It's a topic not only for entertainment but also something that helps me become more fearless to things, also an excuse to why I am tired in the morning. Anyways, horror helped me overcome my fears to things that I shouldn't be scared of, usually small spiders, heights, or anything disgusting like bugs or blood, mostly small injuries and nothing too serious. But horror is also a popular topic that I love going through, it also gave me enough interest to finally read, which is also a good thing to learn how to read and get over your fears at the same time.

Alejandro Nieto



FRESHMEN CLASS

## NOVEMBER WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

What I Am Thankful For  
By Hector Gutierrez

Every year on Thanksgiving Day,  
They ask, "What are you thankful for?" they say.  
And each time, I pause, look around,  
Thinking of blessings that abound.

This year began with change in sight,  
New and strange, it filled me with fright.  
But time has taught me, change can heal,  
And life itself, a gift so real.

My family stands by, helping me grow,  
In ways only they truly know.  
My mother works through sleepless nights,  
Her love, a beacon, strong and bright.

My father's lessons, day by day,  
Guide me forward, show the way.  
He's taught me courage, strength, and grace,  
To be kind, and face life's race.

My sisters, three, with laughter loud,  
Their quirks and jests make me proud.  
Sofia, Andrea, and Isabella dear,  
Even in fights, I hold them near.

And then my dogs, my furry eight,  
Charlie, Layla, Coco—so great.  
Leo, Chenco, Maya, Luna, and Hershey too,  
They teach me love, so pure and so true.

Friends at school, in Drama and Choir,  
Loyal and kind, they lift me higher.  
Teachers who care and lend their hand,  
Giving second chances, they understand.

I've faced harsh words that pierce and sting,  
They make me doubt, they clip my wing.  
But I've learned not everyone will see  
The worth and light inside of me.

In ten years' time, if I'm still here,  
I'll keep my heart, my spirit clear.  
And if I'm not, I hope to leave  
A legacy of love, in which I believe.

So, what am I thankful for?  
For life itself, forevermore.  
For the breeze, the sun, the skies above,  
For the world around, and those I love.

I'll live each day, each moment near,  
Grateful for those who bring me cheer.  
No matter what, I know it's true—  
With all my heart, I cherish you.



SOPHOMORE CLASS

## NOVEMBER WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

Life is full of wonderful experiences as well as pleasant surprises. I will forever be grateful for life and its mysteries, but I am mostly grateful for my grandparents. They are some of the most admirable, remarkable, and sweet people that have ever impacted my life.

To begin, my grandma has always supported me throughout anything I put my mind to. Although she unfortunately doesn't live near me, she'll call frequently asking how I'm doing and congratulating me on anything astonishing or new that has happened in my life. I visit her as much as I can and value all the moments I can have with her. These moments can consist of helping her clean or just sitting with her while having a nice conversation with her. She has taught me the importance of many things and will continue to do so as the years continue. She has had such an important role in making me who I am currently. I wouldn't ever trade her for anything in this world as she is a precious gem that nothing can replace.

As if I could ask for more, my grandpa came into my life. He is one of the most valuable and luckiest people I could ever wish to have met and to have in my life. He has always been there to talk to me about his stories, give me advice on anything I'm stuck on, or to just have memorable moments with him. There's always a way to have a good laugh between both of us whether it's playing card games or just doing simple stuff like helping him put on his shoes. Although recently we've had to adjust to major changes, my love for him hasn't changed. He's had all the luck in the world and now, I'm the lucky one as I've had the honor to have him in my life. I hope we can continue to create beautiful and loved memories as I go and see him every year. I will forever cherish every moment I can with him as he has with me. My love for him comes from a place deep inside my heart and I hope he knows this.

These are just a few of the reasons why I love and am thankful for these wonderful people known as my grandparents. I hope I have made such an impact as they have on me. Los quiero mucho Lala y Papi Tomas.

Con amor, Nathaly Tenorio



JUNIOR CLASS

## NOVEMBER WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

I feel very lucky to have been born in Mexico, a country that has a special flavor in every corner. Mexico will always be part of who I am, and it fills me with pride to know that I carry in my blood all that culture, those traditions, and that warmth that is only felt here. I am very grateful to my family, who are my support and my strength. My mother, with her unconditional love, has always been there, and the truth is, I don't know what I would do without her. She is one of those people who makes you feel like everything is going to be okay, no matter what. My dad, on the other hand, is quite an example for me. With his effort and his way of seeing life, he has taught me that if you want something, you have to work hard and never give up.

My brother is another one who takes the prize; Although we had our fights, he has always been my friend, and I know I can count on him for anything. My grandparents are a true treasure; Their love and support remind me that the love of family is the most valuable thing.

I can't fail to mention my girlfriend, an incredibly beautiful and sweet person. She fills me with joy, and having her in my life is a gift that I wouldn't change for anything. I also feel lucky to live legally in the United States; I have learned a lot here, but I know that I always have the option of returning to Mexico and dedicating myself to agrochemistry and livestock, which is what I am really passionate about.

Having studied a career in programming and robotics is also something that I value a lot. And my friends, those who are more than friends, are brothers, are the best thing that has happened to me. Life brought us together and I know I would give my life for them if necessary. Life is a journey and each person and moment has left me something forever.

Nestor S. Villanueva



SENIOR CLASS



# THE STINGER SEASON

## Diverse seasonal traditions

By Yissel Castillo Ortiz  
Stinger Reporter

Now that it's December, the holiday season is upon us. Christmas is one of more commonly celebrated holiday in America. Some common traditions that people do to celebrate Christmas include decorating and setting up a Christmas tree. A lot of people also like to build gingerbread houses, bake Christmas cookies, give gifts to family and friends and "[stay] up till 12 to open gifts," says Andrea Castro. Christmas is mainly celebrated as a way to get together with the people you love and show appreciation to one another.

Hanukkah is another holiday celebrated in De-

cember by many Jewish families. The majority of people who celebrate it do so by lighting a candle on a menorah for eight days and nights (Dec. 25th through Jan. 2nd this year). Families like to exchange gifts also during this and eat traditional foods like latkes, doughnuts, and sufganiyot.

Las Posadas is mainly celebrated by Hispanic families and is basically a nine day celebration where they reenact the story of Mary and Joseph. Children dress up as angels and march through their town. They sing while marching and end it off with feasting on tamales, buñuelos, atole, cafe de olla, and breaking pinatas.

Kwanzaa is a week of



Photo credit: www.bnsk12.org

festivities honoring African American culture and heritage celebrated in December. Unlike Hanukkah, which is an eight-day holiday, Kwanzaa consists of being celebrated for seven days. According to

tradition, a family lights one candle each night, reciting sayings of their old ancestors or reciting poetry, dancing, and feasting on catfish, collards, macaroni and cheese, and giving out presents.

## Lose yourself in holiday films

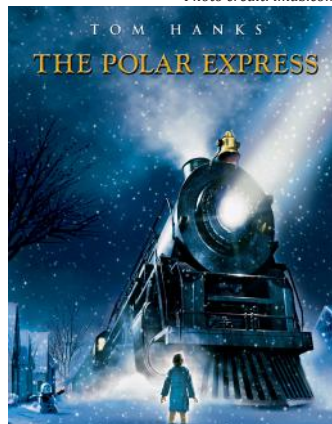
By Janalise Jimenez  
Editor-In-Chief

Holiday season consists of Thanksgiving all the way until New Years. It's a highly anticipated time of the year, helping to get people out of the winter blues as days get darker and colder. One way people choose to celebrate while keeping warm is staying home and watching a good holiday movie.

Freshman Tristan Duncan says his favorite films are *The Polar Express* and *Home Alone*. He explained, "These were the holiday movies that I grew up watching with my family. They bring on the Christmas spirit and are always a good way to connect with family members." Movies are one activity to spend

time with family, especially during winter break. Duncan goes on to say, "They have a special place in my heart because it was like a tradition with my family to sit downstairs with hot chocolate and watch *The Polar Express*." *The Polar Express* was released in 2004 and follows the sto-

Photo credit: imdb.com



ry of a boy discovering the truth of Santa Clause as he boards a train headed for the North Pole. The movie was originally based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg and since then both have become classics during the holiday season.

When asked what type of theme makes a good movie, Duncan typically looks for holiday movies with "a redemption story like the polar express or for it to bring Christmas spirit and [is] funny." Similar to Duncan, Junior Rachel Varsek says she enjoys, "Something uplifting and funny." Her favorite films being *White Christmas*, *Elf*, and *It's A Wonderful Life*. She says, "They all have fun, heartwarming themes, and they're nice



Photo credit: moviesanywhere.com

to watch with family." Most popular Christmas movies follow similar joyful relaxing tones as their stories reflect family, friendship, redemption, and the hope that holidays bring. Haven't watched one of these movies? You can add it to your list or try to explore a different type of holiday movie.



# Listen to these holiday tunes

By **Zuheil Martinez**  
Stinger Reporter

As the Christmas season approaches, it's time to get into the festive spirit. What better way than to listen to your favorite Christmas music?

Listening to happy and lighthearted Christmas music gives us a sense of nostalgia, triggering a warm feeling inside of us; joy. The holiday centers around the happiness of spending time with your loved ones, and hearing holiday music helps create a gleeful atmosphere. Zee-bee senior, Alexa Cornejo, enjoys the holiday hit "Last Christmas" by Wham! because, "it isn't necessarily a typical Christmas song but more of a heartbreak song with a nice nostalgic feel to it." Everybody enjoys various Christmas songs ranging from holiday joy to heartbreaking sadness. Each song has their own



Photo credit: [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)

various reasons for their popularity, but the number one most streamed Christmas song in 2023 was "All I want for Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey.

Carey's song brings a warm, fuzzy feeling about wanting the one thing beyond holiday gifts: love.

Many can connect with this concept of wanting love more than a present, more anything in the world. Spending the holiday season with the people you love the most is what makes the holiday season such a special and beautiful experience. Whether

you listen to Wham!'s "Last Christmas," to get over a heartbreak, or Gene Autry's "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," to enjoy a song about one of Santa's reindeer, these Christmas songs help uplift any negativity and fulfill homes with joyful spirits.

## Arroz con Leche

By **Adamari Melendez**  
Stinger Reporter

Prep time: 10 min.  
Cook time: 30-45 min.  
Serving: 6 servings per 2 cups of rice

### Ingredients:

2 cup jasmine rice  
3 cups whole milk or almond milk if preferred)  
1.5 cups water  
1/2 can condensed milk  
1 can evaporated milk  
3 cinnamon sticks  
1 pinch cinnamon powder  
1 tsp vanilla extract

### Directions:

Add 1.5 cups of water into a

pot with 3 small cinnamon sticks

Wash rice and add it to pot of water. Cover and let boil.

Once rice is cooked, add whole milk. (Add more to get the consistency to your liking.) Stir until mixed.

Slowly add 1 can of evaporated milk. Add vanilla extract.

Add 1/2 a can of sweetened condensed milk. Add more for a sweeter flavor. Continue to stir so it does not stick to the bottom. Stir for about 2 minutes.

Cover and let boil for a few minutes. Turn down the heat grab a mug or a small bowl, serve and

top with a pinch of cinnamon powder for garnish and enjoy.

This dessert can also be enjoyed cold for a more pudding-like texture.





# Tis the season of giving

By D'Avion Thomas

Stinger Reporter

It is now December, and you know what that means... Christmas time! And also lots and LOTS of snow. It's now the season of giving and sharing. Every year, Zion-Benton does a program called "Pop-up Santa Shoppe." Donations of hats and other winter items, new or gently used toys, and gift wrapping items would be highly appreciated. These items will be gathered for children who may not be able to receive any gifts this year. Donations will be accepted until Monday, December 16th. The pop-up shoppe is Wednesday, December 18th. "Santa's Trailer" will be parked near the South Cafeteria entrance, where

the donations will be collected. The shoppe opens at 9 am and ends at 5 pm. You must be a student

here at Zion-Benton in order to "shop". To sign up, you will be getting a link from your advisor. You

will also have to arrange your own transportation if you plan on showing up after school hours.



**POP-UP SANTA Shoppe**

PRESENTED BY  
ZION-BENTON TOWNSHIP DISTRICT 126

**DECEMBER 18, 2024  
FROM 9AM - 5PM  
ZBTHS SOUTH COMMONS**

*RSVP Here*

**Guidelines**

Student may "shop" during study hall or during lunch/advisory.

- Study hall students must report to study hall to be escorted.
- Lunch/Advisory students must go to South Commons and show their lunch period on ID.

Students with Final Exams scheduled for all 3 periods may come AFTER the bell for the 5th period Final Exam.

- The shop WILL be open and an activity bus has been arranged to take shoppers home at 2:15pm.

**CHECK-IN STATION**

- Student ID Required.
- Identify the number of family members for whom you are shopping
  - Choose up to 2 ITEMS for each household member.

**CHECK-OUT STATION**

- Place your "Ticket" in the Checkout box.
- Please write a THANK YOU to ZB Staff and Community.
  - We will provide postcards.

**\*\*After school\*\* 2:30PM-5:00PM**  
Community members are welcome

## THE STINGER ARTS

# Check out a ZB holiday show

By Ellie Hedrick

Stinger Reporter

On December 6th Zee-Bees from our school's band, choir, and theater programs will work together to put on the ZB Holiday Spectacular. The student actors will put on a play titled "The North Pole Cookie Contest," written by teacher and director Mrs. Kelly Regnier. There will be wonderful festive performances by the band and choir students as well.

Students are working hard to rehearse for and put this show together. Mrs. Regnier stated, "I always enjoy writing each holiday play. Christmas is such a joyful time of year, and we try to spread that joy to our community through our work on stage." Anjelique

Moya, a Zee-Bee student and band member, stated when asked how the band

is preparing, "We're working very hard on these pieces with daily practice, it's

Photo credit: K. Regnier



The ZB Performing Arts Department Presents:

**2024 Holiday Spectacular**

**SOLD OUT**

Featuring our Band, Choir, and Theatre Students

Get tickets here

**December 6  
@ 7:00 pm**

**HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR**

hard, but in the end it all works together nicely." Shyeanne Blanchard, a Zee-Bee choir member, discussed how they are singing many songs, an example being, "Hey Mister Santa". She stated, "Choir is like joining a new family, you make so many new friends and get to sing so many amazing songs." Many others in the show feel this way, and it shows in the performance.

The Holiday Spectacular will take place on Friday, December 6th at 7:00 pm in the Zion-Benton Performing Arts Center. As of the evening of December 5th, tickets for the show are sold out, and great accomplishment for our talented performing arts department. Break a leg, everyone!



# Hedgehog returns to theaters

By **Joey Morrison**  
Stinger Reporter

*Sonic 3* is a brand new movie with Sonic and his friends, Tails and Knuckles. They must face a brand new enemy with power far exceeding their own. Sonic and his friends must also reunite with an old villain in need of their assistance.

*Sonic 3* will also have a plenty of references to the videogame *Sonic Adventure 2* which Sonic fans will recognize. The film will still have the same actors from the other movies such as Ben Schwartz as Sonic, Colleen O'Shaughnessey as Tails, Idris Elba as Knuckles, Jim Carry as Dr Eggman and Gerald Robotnik, and a brand new actor to the franchise: Keanu Reeves as Shadow The Hedgehog. Keanu Reeves did his

research on Shadow the hedgehog before taking the role. Keanu Reeves shared

his thoughts, "Shadow the Hedgehog is an awesome character" and he definitely

Photo credit: kotaku.com



ly understood what the movie production team was aiming to accomplish.

Jeff Fowler, director of the film, says that "there might have been a chance that Keanu actually played through *Sonic Adventure 2* or *Shadow the Hedgehog*." *Sonic Adventure 2*, which was released in 2001, is the first game that introduces Shadow the Hedgehog where Sonic and Shadow fight, but then end up working together near the end of the story. Five years later the *Shadow the Hedgehog* game was released, mainly focusing on Shadow and allowing the player to choose a hero path or villain path storyline.

*Sonic 3* comes to theaters on Friday, December 20, 2024.

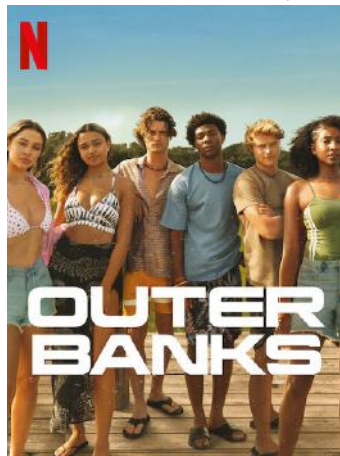
# Outer Banks disappoints

By **Maggie Taylor**  
Stinger Reporter

Most Zee-Bees are watchers of the Netflix series *Outer Banks*, or have at least heard of it. Season four of the popular show just came out in October. The media and many fans are not happy about how this last season turned out.

This new season came

Photo credit: media.netflix.com



with a plot twist that nobody expected. People were shocked at this big change to the show. Lucy Bogdala, a student here at ZBTHS has said "This new season was a shock to me, I did unfortunately get a spoiler that made it hard to finish. I think people are being too dramatic about how this season ended, seeing as there is only one season left but, I understand why people might be upset."

Spoilers were another reason watchers were upset because social media spoiled a lot of the show to people who were not finished or planning on watching the new season.

Bogdala also added "Overall, I love *Outer Banks*; it's a fun and entertaining show. The new season was a shock but it still turned out great."

Season five is renewed



Photo credit: www.newmanvantage.com

and confirmed to come out in 2025-2026. After season four people are nervous to see how this change in the series will affect next season. Cecilia McCarthy, a student at ZBTHS also added "I like the concept and the events that happened, but this season has disappointed me as the actors'

attitudes towards each other did not feel the same as the previous seasons. In other seasons the characters had a lot of chemistry and friendly banter, but this season felt like they had just met." Despite a shocking fourth season, fans can look forward to an exciting final fifth season.





# Basketball boys ready for season

Photo credit: emerald night photography

**By Na'Ryah Moore**  
Stinger Reporter

Basketball isn't just a sport, it's a transformative experience. Some say it even helps you grow.

Senior Rmoni Beals is a three sport athlete and has been all four years. Beals has been on the varsity basketball team since freshman year. Giving insight into his experiences, Beals says, "Being on the basketball team has matured me, it also gave me a family."

The basketball team is more than just the boys who joined, they see themselves as more of a family.

Jayden Young-Delk is another varsity basketball player that has played on the team for 4 years. Young-

Delk who started out his ZB basketball career on the difficult side. "It was a learning experience for me, and made me grow faster as a basketball player."

The ZB basketball team is a pathway to helping our athletes grow and mature. Beals and Young-Delk like to nickname themselves as "twins" and have known each other for a long time. They now strive to push each other to do the best they can.

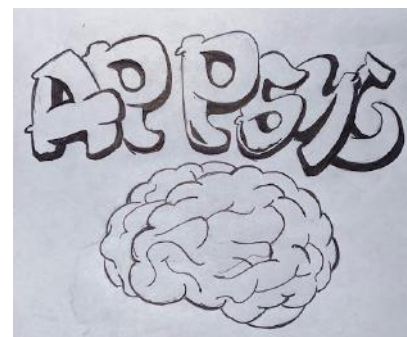
The home opener game for the team is tomorrow, Saturday, December 7th at 7 pm. The varsity boys will play against Tremper High School from Kenosha, Wisconsin. Come out and support the team!



## Brain-Based FINALS Study Tips From AP Psychology



- Space out your studies - don't cram all at once. Sessions of 30-45 minutes are ideal. This gives your brain time to process the info.
- Use colors, rhymes, rhythm, or stories to help you remember better.
- Use movement - write terms on flashcards and put them in stacks or rows that relate to each other.
- Study in an environment similar to how you'll take your test (in a chair at a desk, not on your bed)!



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