

The Observer

Weekly

Cloverleaf Inside and Out

January 7, 2012

Looking Back on 2011

By Brittany Piper

With 2011 over, and the new year of 2012, many people plan to move forward, and keep a clean head for the New Year. But first let us take a flash back to the best of 2011.

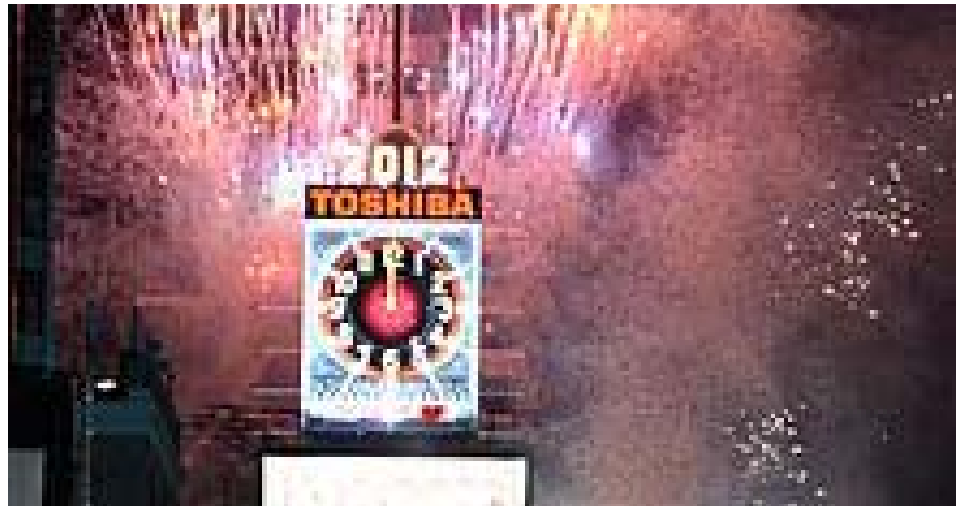
Looking back on 2011, the Royal Wedding, of Kate Middleton and Prince William was a time that no one could forget. From that wedding, many people took awe over Middleton's sister and bridesmaid, Pippa Middleton. Also, the unforgettable flower girl, Grace van Cutsem, could no longer stand the cheering of the crowd and covered her ears and made an unforgettable annoyed face.

The year of 2011 also brought in a comic talent called "planking." Planking became the obsession as many people would go to outrageous measures to lay on their stomachs with their hands back and face down. As this talent was not much, it began to catch on, and had people from all over began planking for fun.

Catching the eye of many TV viewers, *Toddler and Tiaras* was a raging sensation that viewers could not stay away from. The girls dress up in skimpy dresses, get waxed, spray tanned, and even wear fake teeth and eye lashes. The show makes the girls seem like sexual objects rather than toddlers. The girls have a pageant to win money, big tiaras, and a sash, which all are too big for their little bodies and heads.

"The toddlers are hilarious, I know that the parents are just living their lives through their children. It is an addicting show that I cannot help but watch," said senior Ashley Rose.

As many weddings occurred over the year, many people did not realize



Time Square has a firework display after the ball drops to welcome in 2012.

Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

the "Legally Blonde," Reese Witherspoon, finally found love with Jim Toth. The couple got married in March on Witherspoon's ranch in Ojai, California.

"I had no idea that she got married, but I looked at pictures online and she looked so pretty. I wish I would have known about it," said sophomore Allie Reed.

Throughout the year, the babies kept coming, and the names kept surprising us as many names were no longer considered original. Nick Cannon and Mariah Carey had twins on April 30. The girl was named Monroe, while her twin brother took the name Moroccan. Then, only a few days later, Silverstone and Jarecki had Bear Blu Jarecki, topping off the three worst baby names of the year.

"Really," laughed junior Rebecca Polchek. "Who in their right mind would name their children such awful ugly names? I mean, you're a celebrity, can you not pick decent names?"

The star that most everyone was into in the year 2011 was Kate Middleton. The star with the best engagement ring was Reese Witherspoon with her high fashion four-carat Ashoka diamond ring. The best old baby name is Harper, whose parents are Victoria and David Beckham. 2011 was a year of the Royals, including the obsession over Kate and William, along with the new obsession of Pippa.

Everyone seems to be getting over the big obsession of the Kardashians. As many people watched the four-hour wedding of Chris Humprys and Kim Kardashian their marriage came to an end only 72 days later.

"I do not even think that they should be famous; all they do is stand there and get their picture taken for being pretty," stated junior Kalie Cold.

With many good and unforgettable memories of 2011, people are ready to start a new year, and are excited to see what changes 2012 will bring.

Earthquakes Hit Ohio

By Marc Frary

A series of earthquakes have been hitting our usually peaceful state. In one week, Mahoning County has experienced two earthquakes that have been rising in magnitude. The first of the quakes took place on Dec. 24 in the early morning at 1:24 a.m. About 90 people had shared feeling the effects of the quake. The quake had a magnitude of 2.7. There was no damage reported.

The second earthquake took place again in Mahoning County. The earthquake took place on Dec. 31 at 3:05 p.m. with a magnitude of 4.0. The effects of the earthquake could be felt throughout northeast Ohio, western Pennsylvania, and Ontario, Canada.

Although no real damage has taken place, there were reports of things falling off shelves and moving slightly on table tops and counter surfaces.

The earthquakes that have been taking place in Ohio recently have been proven to unnatural, and possibly from something man made. Experts have discovered that the recent earthquakes have been fracking. Fracking is the injection of chemical-laced water and sand into rock to release oil and gas.

In Youngstown, five wells have been made that are 9,000 feet deep. It's because of these wells that the fracking can take place. Due to the high pressure from injecting the liquid into the rock, it

is able to cause seismic activity.

In total, there are 177 wells like these in Ohio alone. Although there are guidelines for how the wells are to operate, the Clean Water Act has laid down the guidelines for the regulation of pollutants drained into the waters in the United States.

It hasn't been decided yet if the wells in Youngstown have been regulating properly and have stayed within the limits of how much pressure they are able to use. Scientists say that the earthquakes might not be over for a while, due to the fact that the liquid injected in the rock may take years to find its way out.

If you feel a rumble, you might know where it came from.

New Year's Eve a Big Hit

By Morgan Hall

The new movie *New Year's Eve* is about love, hope, forgiveness, second chances, and fresh starts. The movie is made up of intertwining stories, all told in New York City on New Year's Eve.

Most would say that New Year's Eve is the most dazzling night of the year, especially in New York City. Times Square is usually populated by an estimated one million people, and millions of people nationwide tune in to watch the performances and activities on TV.

Anticipation runs high as the clock strikes 12 and the famous New Year's Eve ball is dropped from the flag pole. All of this is

featured in the movie *New Year's Eve*.

New Year's Eve is a romantic comedy a lot like the movie *Valentine's Day*. Just like *New Year's Eve*, the movie *Valentine's Day* had many known actors and actresses in the cast with different stories which all ended up intertwining.

Some people in the cast of *New Year's Eve* include Halle Berry, Jessica Beil, Jon Bon Jovi, Abigail Breslin, Ludacris, Robert DeNiro, Zac Efron, Ashton Kutcher, Katherine Heigl, and many more.

"*New Year's Eve* looks good because it has a lot of good actors in it and the previews made it

look pretty funny," said junior Allison Fazio.

While *New Year's Eve* is about romance, it also looks at love in some of its other forms: forgiveness, compassion, and the everyday miracle of people opening their hearts to a different point of view.

"I'm excited to see the movie," said teacher Amy Simarro. "I'm going to see it with Mrs. Woolley."

This movie is all about how romance steals the show on December 31st as people look for midnight kisses and fun that will last a lifetime.

Grab a friend and enjoy the stars that come out in this one.

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Quiz & Quotes

What is your
New Year's
Resolution?



Caol Newberry
(Staff)

"To be more self disciplined."



Logan Detwiler (10)

"To help in my neighborhood more."



Katie Simpson (12)

"To become a more patient person."



Morgan Siegler (11)

"To not eat chocolate or chips."

Ultimate Dream Teams Good?

By Ronnie Washington

As the NBA got back on its feet and the regular season was saved, rumors began to surface that the Los Angeles Lakers were trying to revamp their roster.

Everybody remembers what happened last NBA season when the Miami Heat created the big three when they signed Dwayne Wade, Chris Bosh, and Akron's own LeBron James. Also, the New York Knicks acquired Carmelo Anthony and Chauncey Billups to go along with Amar'e Stoudemire to create their version of the big three.

These two teams created their big three so they could compete with the original big three of the Boston Celtics: Ray Allen, Paul Pierce, and Kevin Garnett.

These three teams are all in the Eastern Conference, but it looks like this year, the Western Conference is trying to get a team with a big three of their own. The Lakers had reportedly been trying to find a way to acquire Chris Paul from the New Orleans Hornets and Dwight Howard from the Orlando Magic. Both of these players are in their prime of their career and both are All-Stars.

Howard is coming off his best year offensively, averaging 22.9 points per game, to go along with 14.1 rebounds per game and 2.4 blocks per game. He has had five All-Star game appearances and has

been named the Defensive Player of the Year three consecutive years.

Chris Paul, or CP3, as called in New Orleans, is arguably the best point guard in the NBA. He has averaged 18.7 points per game, to go along with an impressive 9.9 assists per game and 2.4 steals per game throughout his career. He has been in four All-Star games.

The trades to the Lakers did not happen, but it was close.

For Cloverleaf students, this was an opportunity for them to see the Miami Heat fail in their quest to win the NBA championship.

"I think if they went to the Lakers, they would be a powerhouse and I'd love them even more," said senior Marisa Romanchik. "Beat the Heat!"

Senior Dylan Weese says that the Los Angeles Lakers "would have been the new favorite to win the championship."

Junior Garret Norris and senior Brandon Hayes both agreed that if that did happen, then "they would ball so hard." Hayes then added that "it would be very good to get younger players to replace older members of the Lakers."

To most of Cloverleaf, and to all of the Cleveland Cavaliers' fans, their motto is simple: ABM, anybody but Miami. If the Lakers pulled off these trades, it would make many people around here excited for the NBA season.

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New Year's Resolutions Can Be Fun

By Claire Turner

After a year filled with earthquakes, tsunamis, royal weddings, and Bieber fever, 2012 has arrived! And a New Year means none other than the very commonly talked about New Year's resolutions.

New Year's resolutions are commitments, usually pretty big ones, that someone makes and attempts to follow for the entire year or longer. Many people come up with resolutions, including celebrities.

According to ivillage.com, actor Ashton Kutcher said, "In 2012, let's agree to a resolution to feel one another's pain and joy, and create the peace we desire through proactive generosity."

Actress Jessica Biel wants to learn a new language. Rapper 50 Cent wants to become more self conscious, and actress Miranda Cosgrove wants to take kickboxing classes again.

Along with these famous people, Cloverleaf students and staff have New Year's resolutions of their own.

"Well, my New Year's resolutions are to read *Bleak House*," sighed senior Emily Springsteel, "and to drink less pop."

"I have 18 of them," said junior Kari Morris.

"My New Year's resolution is to be as cool as Mariah Wood," junior Trevar Dahl declared.

"I am going to be as cool as Trevar," junior Mariah Wood said.

"I am going to do all of my homework," freshman Rachel Stallard said.

"My resolution is to grow some hair," commented science teacher Garth Gucker.

It is highly likely that he is already achieving extreme success.

"My New Year's resolution is to decline being quoted in this week's *Observer*," senior Jake Elliott said.

Well, sometimes resolutions just do not work out, but they are still fun! Nonetheless, Cloverleaf has clearly thought of some unique and interesting New Year's resolutions.



The ball dropping in Times Square on New Year's Eve. Photo courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

Some simply do not get into making resolutions. Several people from around the school have commented that most people do not stick to their New Year's resolutions, so making them is pointless.

This may be true, but hopefully reading the interesting ones that your classmates have come up with is somewhat entertaining. To all who made resolutions for the year 2012, good luck!

WANNA HAVE FUN LIKE
DREW CAREY & WAYNE BRADY?
COME TO THE IMPROVISATIONAL WORKSHOP
DIRECTED BY CHS GRADUATE
& NY THEATRE STUDENT JENNIFER GEISSMAN
@ CHS ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012

3:30-5 P.M.

FOLLOWING 3 P.M. MUSICAL TRYOUT
SONG SESSION IN CHOIR ROOM

ALL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME! BE BOLD! TRY SOMETHING NEW!