

# COLA STUDENT NEWSLETTER

January

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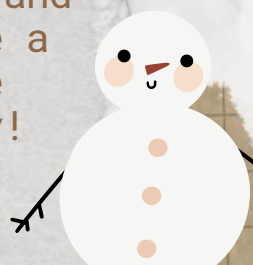
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## about us

This is a student-led newsletter that aims to highlight student and teacher stories and share important dates for standardized testing, field trips, and any other COLA events.

Our goal for this newsletter is to use it as a way for students and teachers to connect and learn more about their peers, and to have a resource for students looking to get more involved in both COLA and their community!





# JANUARY EVENTS

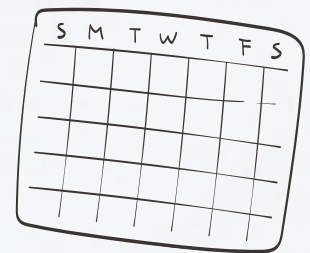
Friday January 9<sup>th</sup> - First Friday

Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> - MLK Celebration & Day  
of Service

Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> - Kennesaw Book, CD,  
and Record Swap

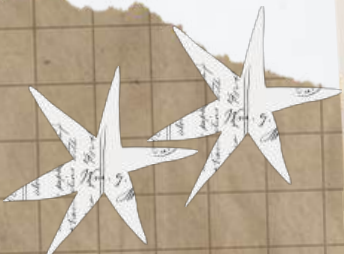


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## SPOTLIGHT EVENT FIRST FRIDAYS

First Fridays are a new event being kicked off this Spring Semester at COLA! Students are invited to the COLA campus to participate in fun activities, great raffles, and special guest speakers!

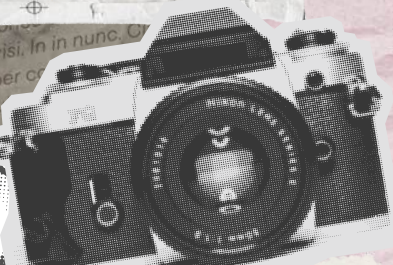






# An Aesthete's Art History Birthday Edition

Henri Matisse  
New Years Eve, 1869





# WRITING ON A WAFFLE



January tiptoes in  
with pockets full of frost.  
sprinkling glitter on the morning  
like winter's powdered frost.  
The month hums soft and sleepy  
as the snow clouds drift and roam—  
a season stitched with wonder,  
a cup of cocoa warmth at home.

But January's full of new years resolutions  
tucked in mitten-colored days:  
resolutions doing cartwheels,  
dreams in scarves that dance and sway.  
And though the cold may nibble,  
our laughter melts the air—  
for even winter's quiet hush  
has magic hiding everywhere.



# THE MOVIE CORNER



## Movie Review: Zootopia 2

Zootopia 2 is a fun, energetic, and surprisingly thoughtful sequel that captures the charm of the first film while introducing new ideas and raising the stakes. The movie brings back Judy Hopps and Nick Wilde, now fully established partners in the ZPD, who are thrown into a new mystery that threatens the city's unity. While the original film focused heavily on prejudice and stereotypes, this sequel expands its themes to include misinformation, trust, and how communities respond to fear.

One of the movie's strongest elements is the relationship between Judy and Nick. Their teamwork feels natural, and the film shows how much they've grown since the first movie. The humor is still bright and quick, but the movie also includes several emotional scenes that help the characters feel real. The new villain is also interesting, using social manipulation rather than brute force, which reflects issues teenagers encounter in real life, such as rumors spreading online.

Visually, Zootopia 2 is stunning. The animation is vibrant and full of detail, especially when exploring new districts of the city. The action scenes are engaging without being overwhelming, and the soundtrack fits the film's tone perfectly.

If there's one downside, it's that some secondary characters don't get as much screen time as they deserve. However, the main story is strong enough that it doesn't drag the movie down. Overall, Zootopia 2 is a well-made sequel that balances comedy, mystery, and important themes. It's entertaining for all ages, but especially meaningful for teenagers learning to think critically about information and relationships.

## MOVIE FACTS

### JAMES BOND IS NOT REALLY BRITISH

In the penultimate Ian Fleming 007 novel, *You Only Live Twice*, James Bond's parents are revealed to be Scottish and Swiss. His formative years were spent in Germany and France.



### MADAGASCAR IS BEING RERELEASED

To celebrate its 20th anniversary, DreamWorks' animated hit *Madagascar* is returning to theaters in the U.S. for a limited engagement starting January 16, 2026, featuring its beloved characters like Alex, Marty, Melman, and Gloria, bringing the zoo animals' hilarious journey to the big screen again.



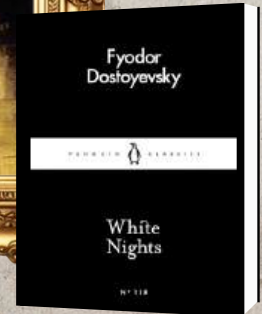




# The Book Nook

est. 2007

Katelyn's Korner



## Book of the month White Nights

By: Fyodor Dostoevsky

## presenting Review & Summary

If I were to summarize this book in only two words, it would be heartbreakingly beautiful.

This short novella by Fyodor Dostoevsky is an eloquently written love story told through the lens of a young man in St. Petersburg suffering from loneliness. He meets an enchanting young lady and falls completely head over heels for her beauty, imagination, and youthful spirit. They get to know each other through long conversations and talk about their lives. The writing is so beautifully timeless that it enchants you straight into the scene, all while our narrator remains nameless throughout the entire book. Yet there are a few words more ingrained in the story's writing than that of our young, sheltered female love interest, Nastenka.

If you're hesitant to get into the classics and require a place to start, I highly recommend this book of bittersweet poetic tellings of loneliness, love, life, and the traveled journeys of mortality. Shining in the stunning lights that highlight the beautiful city of St. Petersburg through the eyes of our Dreamer. Elegantly translated, this short story is one that conveys all the emotions with Dostoevsky, having you laugh, cry, and sit there in utter silence, left to process his young romantic writing. Some might know his name for the great moral tellings of Russian literature, and all-star classics; however, the young author that shines through in this book highlights the beauty of young love, the desperation of loneliness, with the breath of fresh air that is the joint connection of shared beauty in this sentimental story. Narrated through the perspective of a tantalizing and the solace escape vision of imagination presented through words and stories, that flow into personalities that could be placed in any generation. This century-old story of mankind's embraced emotions carries through even today, connecting with new and old. With words on the page written in 1848, never feeling ever so real with this short novelization, encapsulating, elegant words to themes of isolation, unrequited love, and the total desperation that is a true sentimental, bittersweet ending. This heartbreakingly sweet novel, captures feelings and moments of perpetual longing in the dark folds of fellow dreamers, caring through it four nights exchanged between or two characters, knowing each other and journeys traveled by another, only through their words that culminate in a night of a soft, melancholy end.

This novel is the perfect read for those searching and longing for connection in isolation peaked with interest in the philosophy of existentialism. Diving into Fyodor Dostoevsky's words that explore the beautiful, rich summer of St.

Petersburg is a starlit night nature. That leaves the reader, like the narrator, heartbroken in a way that can only be momentarily filled with the dream-like written diary of romance between a young poet and open immersive conversations with a girl. That let us ever know the beauty of a white night.



# Dance to Impress

AMELIA SIZEMORE

Hey COLA community!

Each month, we highlight a new style of dance, and this month we're shining the spotlight on Salsa Dancing—a super energetic, upbeat style that's basically guaranteed to make you want to move.

So, what makes salsa so great? For starters, the music is full of rhythm, drums, and brass that instantly set the vibe. Salsa is known for quick footwork, fun spins, and smooth partner work, but what really makes it stand out is how much freedom dancers have. Even though there are specific steps, dancers get to add their own style and personality, which makes every performance feel different and exciting.

Salsa doesn't really follow a storyline like a ballet does—it tells its story through the energy between the dancers. The movements are expressive, playful, and full of emotion, and the connection between partners is what brings the dance to life. You'll see salsa everywhere: social dance nights, festivals, studios, and even cultural celebrations. No matter where it's performed, it always feels like a party.

If you've never watched or tried salsa dancing before, this month is the perfect chance to check it out. The music is upbeat, the atmosphere is welcoming, and honestly, it's hard not to smile when you see people dancing salsa!



## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Juan Quezada.....12th Grader  
Jordyn Williams.....12th Grader  
Katelyn Miller.....11th Grader  
Amelia Sizemore.....8th Grader

See you  
in  
February!