

Holi-Dazed in Good SPIRITS

Make your life extraordinary

by Elisa Chavez

Mrs. Christine Williams is a highly admired and wonderful staff member at A.B. Miller who teaches 10th grade English and 11th grade AP English.

Joining Miller, the year after it first opened in 1992, she has remained at the school for nearly 30 years. During this time, she has sprinkled her passion of English onto the young minds of students who have even grown to become lifelong friends.

Entering Cal State San Bernadino with the plan to major in psychology, it was never Mrs. Williams's intention to become a teacher. "After one or two years at Cal State and when it came to taking my first psychology class, I realized how much I absolutely hated it," confessed Williams.

Ultimately, her next step was to major in English—a subject she had always been very fond of and understood the complex disciplines there within. While pushing through the rest of college, it was clear to her over time, that *this* was something she loved and wanted to teach.

Before arriving at Miller, Williams recalls her time spent at nearby Sequoia Middle School. "The principle called me when Miller was about to open, but I wasn't ready to leave my job just yet because I was teaching the Gifted And Talented Education program with some great people, and I wasn't ready to move somewhere else," she stated, while fondly reflecting back upon her five years spent.

However, by A.B. Miller's second year, Mrs. Williams felt the timing was perfect for a new challenge, and she was ready to take on high school students.

Surprisingly, Mrs. Williams has remained at A.B. Miller long enough to see students that were once sitting in her classroom, like Mr. Joel Herrada and Mrs. Adrienne Albert, come back as adults to become her coworkers.

Mrs. Williams loves to work alongside the English department, she states "I've worked with these people for so long, that you develop friendships and lasting relationships so yes, we have Christmas and Halloween parties, some of us have even gone on trips together."

While teaching here, Mrs. Williams has found what you could call a second family and she is grateful for that because not everyone gets to go to work alongside people, they also considered to be friends.

From seeing different principles come and go and working at Miller through different decades, Mrs. Williams has really seen it all at this school. "Gosh I was here before the Q-Building even existed, and I've also seen how we continue to develop school spirit you know; some years have been better than others, but I notice the spirit progress with the introduction of new clubs and activities," she observed.

English is everywhere, and you use it for everything, especially communicating and connecting with others. "I think English is one of those subjects that you use for the rest of your life. You're using English to speak and communicate."

Mrs. Williams has remained a part of A.B. Miller for so long because she has connected herself to the people surrounding her on campus such as staff and students and has taught them valuable lessons that they can hold on to, often inspired from some of her favorite meaningful novels such as *Beloved* or *The Scarlet Letter*.

"I think English lends itself to connections you make, especially in analyzing literature—there's always ways to connect it to the world and personal situations."

By that Carla Gutierrez and Mazikeen "Maze" Larson The winter days are a time of warmth and love. The chilly breeze carries with it memories triggered by the sights, sounds, and smells of many people's favorite time of year.

Loved ones come close together, appreciating each other's company more thoughtfully, and people are just a little bit kinder than usual. Bright holiday decorations light up our hearts, and we all gather together to celebrate the holidays.

For sophomore Katherine Urrutia, Christmas is about spending time with family; she punctuates this with her idea of a perfect Christmas: "Having our entire family together and having a good time—no drama." The memory she most

treasures comes from when she was around seven, her parents had given her and her siblings the unfortunate news that they simply could not afford to buy Christmas presents for them; however, after returning home from spending time with family, their parents had hidden their Christmas presents and it was now up to them to find them.

Freshman Paola Rodriguez Soto's favorite part of Christmas is "being able to gift others gifts". This is why her best Christmas was when she got hamsters as presents, since she's "always adored small animals for pets". "My idea of the perfect way to celebrate Christmas would be get together with all your friends and family and just have a movie night with all your favorite holiday movies and with your snacks, then just have dinner as a whole and lastly to open the presents we got each other," Soto daydreams. For her, Christmas is all about loved ones gathering together to eat "tamales or pozole", and "just have an overall good time together, opening gifts."

Geovani Sigala, junior, smiles as he sets up his perfect Christmas: "Preferably cooking dinner, and then just enjoying the night, Christmas Eve, and staying up until twelve and then gifts, you know how it goes." For him, "it's not all about Christmas, it's

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Best Gift continued.

a phone because my parents couldn't afford one at the time and seeing all my friends and other kids with nice phones made me want one. So every year since fifth grade, I asked my mom for an iPhone every year for Christmas." And like Caprio, waiting paid off for Arce.

"It wasn't until freshman year when I finally got my first iPhone. It meant a lot to me knowing that my parents worked hard to give me things they never had, and it made me be grateful for the loving and hardworking parents I have. So now, I spend my time trying get the best gifts for my parents every Christmas year the same way they worked hard to make me happy by getting me my first phone." it.

Whether it is as big as a car or as small as a necklace, there must be something you have gotten that just fills you with joy. We want you to share that feeling this Christmas. Put thought and love in present boxes this year.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and see you next time!