



Julian's Journey kicked off during the week of Feb. 10. Wish Week is a time where CT and the surrounding community come together to raise money for "Make-a-Wish," a non-profit that works to give children with life-threatening illnesses the chance to make a wish of theirs come true, creating a memory to cherish for a lifetime.

This year, we joined forces with Julain to help him go to Nintendo World, an interactive theme park at Universal Studios, Japan. Julian interests are games featuring the Nintendo franchise character Mario, KitKat candies, and the Disney & Pixar film "cars." The Commons were decorated with a theme inspired by the Nintendo game Mario Kart. With mystery boxes, roads, and Mario franchise characters scattered across the commons, immersing students into a racetrack straight from the game.

But the true magic of Wish Week is how CT students band together to help make a wish come true. "I think my

favorite thing...is seeing the student body is able to come together and unite for this one kid," Arnav Seth (11) said.

Students and faculty buy "Wish Kits" throughout the week, with different organizations within the school contributing as well. The art department donates their time and talents, helping the community get in the spirit with their contributions in the commons. Students and faculty signed up and donated to participate in dodgeball, another Wish Week tradition. Historically, the school hosts a "Celebration of Wishes".

However, due to snow, the Celebration of Wishes was cancelled, with the first festivities being cancelled as well.

With these sudden setbacks, the community had to rally together more than ever to help make Julian's wish come true. "Thankfully, Julian and his father were still able to come to dodgeball and kick the week off, but it definitely knocked the wind out of our sails... we just had to reshift and keep it

about Julian," head of leadership Mrs. Johnson said.

People who bought tickets to the Celebration of Wishes donated their refunds back to the cause. Students also showed their continuous support by participating in spirit days, attending after school events, and donating their loose change during "Miracle Minutes".

The final push for Wish Week was the pep assembly on Friday, Feb. 14.

"It was really fun to do something to honor [Julian] and to show that we care about him," Reagan (12) said. By the end of the assembly, students in the audience were buzzing with anticipation for the big check reveal. They knew their efforts were worth it when the 40,702 dollar check was revealed, and the gym erupted with pure joy. *L. McMillan*

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**Game On!** Arnav Seth (11), keeps spirits hopeful after a trying Wish Week. Dressed as Bowser from the "Mario" game franchise, play-fights with Julian during the Wish Week assembly on Feb. 14. "Thankfully, Julian and his father were still able to come to dodgeball and kick the week off, but it definitely knocked the wind out of our sails... we just had to reshift and keep it about Julian," Mrs. Johnson said. Photo by Zoe Vescera

Standing alongside her friend Emarie Rodriguez (12), Mariah Patterson (12) smiles not because of her groundbreaking performance but because of it's purpose. "It meant so much to dance for an actual cause than just for fun which is why we decided to do it," said Patterson. Photo by Zoe Vescera

# MAKING AN IMPACT

Photos by Bri Kary

