

The Monarch Chronicle

Northern **C**hatauqua **C**atholic **S**chool

December 2021 Issue 2



What a wonderful year it has been at our school! Despite living under the constant shadow of the pandemic, we have managed to keep our school lit up, our classrooms vibrant, and our church masses inspiring. A hugely successful production of The Lion King and a lively winter concert served to reveal a wealth of talent among our students that had not been previously seen or heard. It is fitting, then, to go into Christmas break bearing our Principal’s favorite saying: “Great things are happening at NCCS!”

Table Of Contents

Catholic Corner.....	3
Science & Discovery.....	4
Pop Culture & Reviews.....	7
Perspectives.....	10
Sports.....	11
Critter Corner.....	12
The World Out There.....	13
Up Close & Personal	25
Monarch Nation	27
Free Writers.....	29

Monarch Chronicle Staff :

Maggie Mikula, Editor-in-Chief

Emerysn Strefeler, Editor

Mr. Howard, Advisor

This publication represents the research and creative writing of NCCS middle school students. It is not for profit in any way other than the satisfaction students feel when they see the results of their hard work. Because I closely monitored the internet sources used by all my students, I have waived the responsibility of in-text source citation for this issue. What is most important here is that the voices of the writers are their own, and they have used them to express their ideas and those of others.

Catholic Corner

Christmas Around The World

By Ms. Mourer

The United States has a diversity of people. Many of our relatives came to the United States from Europe, Asia, Africa, and various areas throughout the world. We are



blessed in the United States to share some of the Christmas customs throughout the world because of our diversity. This article will touch upon some of the Christmas customs and what you might do as a family. Remember, the Christmas season lasts until January 6th, Three Kings Day.

China "Sheng Tan Kuai Loh!" Not many people are Christians in China. Those who are Christian hang up their stockings to receive gifts from Lan Khoong-Koong (Nice Old Father). They also make lanterns and paper chains to hang in their homes.

France "Joyeux Noël!" Christmas trees are decorated with many colored stars. The manger scene or creche is highlighted in each home. The figures are often made out of clay and are called santons. The French make a traditional cake called the *Buche de Noel*. It is shaped like a Yule Log.

Germany "Fröhliche Weihnachten!" It is thought that the first decorated Christmas tree began in Germany. Sing *O Tannenbaum* (O Christmas Tree) while baking gingerbread people, a favorite cookie of Germany.

Nigeria "Yesu Yanna Kaunacce Ni!" (Jesus loves me!) Christmas plays are performed throughout the country. The Nigerian people exchange food on Christmas Day with family and neighbors. In the afternoon on Christmas Day, the Nigerian children sing Christmas carols throughout their neighborhood. They make decorative masks to wear while caroling. Drums are widely used throughout the holiday season. Make some drums out of empty oatmeal or coffee containers.

Great Britain "Happy Christmas!" Did you know that it is believed that the first Christmas card was printed in England in 1843? An English traditional dessert is plum pudding. Boxing Day is celebrated on December 26th. It is the day that the British give gifts to the community workers. Make homemade Christmas cards and give them to a family member.

Italy "Buon Natale!" The first presepio or manger scene was created in Italy by Saint Francis of Assisi. Fig cookies, pizzells, and macarons are some of the favorite sweets for Christmas. There is a story called *La Befana* that is read to children that tells of a woman searching for the Christ Child. Look the story up on the internet and enjoy.

Mexico "Feliz Navidad!" *Los Posadas* is an important event for the Mexican people. It begins on December 16th and lasts through Christmas Eve. Poinsettias, the famous Christmas flower grows in the wild in Mexico. Read about the Legend of the Poinsettia and the story of *Los Posadas* while enjoying a cup of Mexican hot chocolate.

Poland "Boże Narodzenie! Wesołych Świąt!" Stars are widely used throughout Poland as a symbol of Christmas. On Christmas Eve families and friends share *oplatek* (Small bread-like wafers). Many families go to Midnight Mass called *Pasterka*. One old Polish custom was to serve 12 different dishes on Christmas Eve. The 12 dishes represented Jesus' future Apostles. Purchase some *oplatek* and share it on Christmas Eve. Look up what the meaning of this custom is and what the Polish people say to each other as they share the wafer.

Science & Discovery

Solar Storms and Northern Lights

By Liliana Seibert

The "northern lights" are one of the most amazing sights in the night sky. They are basically a solar wind. Solar wind is plasma continuously ejected from the sun's surface into and through interplanetary space.

The best place to watch the northern lights is



closer to the Arctic Circle, including Alaska, Canada, Iceland, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, and Finland. You can also see the Southern

lights in the southern hemisphere, but northern lights are more common and can be found in more parts of the world. Northern lights are known for their bright vivid colors in the night sky. Lots of people are amazed by them, and I'm sure at some point we've all wondered what causes them.

Well here's how: As solar wind approaches the Earth, it meets the Earth's magnetic field.

In the ionosphere (a layer of the earth's atmosphere that contains a high concentration of ions and free electrons), the ions of the solar wind collide with atoms of oxygen and nitrogen from the Earth's atmosphere. The energy released during these collisions causes a colorful glowing halo around the poles, called an aurora.

Recently scientists have discovered a relationship between solar storms and the northern lights. In a way, solar storms can enhance the northern lights because a strong storm can make the phenomenon more visible across the earth.



The Theory Of "Planet B"

By Tommy Askar

Planet B

"Is there a Planet B? If there is, would it be the alternative for Earth?"

This is one of the most debated and talked about topics that has recently been going around.

The idea of Planet B is that there is an exoplanet (or set of exoplanets) out there called *Planet B* that is much similar to our current planet Earth. With



all the basic needs to live, (Water, food, shelter, and sanitation) people say that this "imaginary" planet could be the alternative option to go to when our Earth ends.

Since the first set of exoplanets were discovered by astronomers in the 1990's, many theorists have come to the conclusion that there are more exoplanets that are yet to be discovered. The Kepler Mission was done by people in the University of California. Using the Kepler space telescope, they were able to discover a grand total of 4,864 confirmed planets. "We were finding hundreds of planets at a time," said Natalie Batalha, professor of astronomy and astrophysics at the University of California.

The Debate

Most scientists and astronomers have agreed that Planet B does not exist and never will, and that we only have one option and that is Earth. However, a small number of astronomers and scientists claim that because we have already done a similar mission once successfully, we can do it again.

"There is no Planet B. We must energize Plan A for Action to make the one planet we have safe and productive for future generations. All over the world, No Planet B is an increasingly heard call for action. We will answer the call and make climate change a voting issue now."

- Scientists John Kerry and Ernest Moniz

CNN Documentary

In 2021, CNN released a documentary that showed the behind the scenes of NASA and the Webb Space Telescope. The telescope plans to launch on December 22, 2021, and the team says it will see 10-15 billion light years away. The documentary also talks about the scientists and astronomers jobs and backgrounds.



Conclusion

All in all, this discovery could change all reality on this Earth. All though, it is proven that finding a new planet is nearly impossible and very unlikely. Because of this, the best thing we can do is keep our current planet clean and safe, because it is our only option at the moment.

Ancient Super Volcanoes on Mars

By Andrew Ellman

In 1972 volcanoes were discovered on Mars when a robotic spacecraft called Mariner 9 got a closer look at the big red planet, but it wasn't until 2013 that scientists were able to see and discover more about these volcanoes. They discovered that these eruptions were actually super eruptions because of the size of the oval-shaped craters left in the planet. They also discovered that these eruptions happened anywhere from 500 million to 4 billion years ago. They determined that there were thousands of eruptions, all varying in size.

There are only two craters still visible from a telescope from earth, one of them being the most recent called Olympus Mons. Although they said the most recent one had to be at least 500 million years ago, a new study in 2020 found that Olympus Mons was last active 25 million years ago which is not very long ago in the universe's history. The volcano is 2.5 times larger than Mount Everest and is the size of Arizona, because of its size it covered the planets in volcanic ash. Although most of the ash is not around anymore there are still areas where scientists have found it. That is what the Mars Rover is trying to accomplish by picking up samples and taking them back to earth so scientists can study them and pinpoint the date of how old these volcanoes are.

The impact of these volcanoes is even more impressive because they changed the entire environment of the planet. Scientists think it changed the environment when released gasses made the atmosphere thicker and it blocked the sun making the atmosphere colder. Knowledge of these volcanoes changes the way people have been looking at Mars for centuries and might even impact Space X's mission to go to Mars in the future.

There is still a lot we don't know about this. For instance, could the planet ever erupt again, and if it did how would it change the climate on Mars and effect plans to humans to visit the plane



Pop Culture & Reviews

Poppy Playtime

By Alex Hoth

"Poppy Playtime" is an Indie horror game created in 2021 by MOB Games. It's about a toy factory called "Playtime Co" that is corrupted and holds a very dark secret. You start off taking the place of an ex-employee, returning to the factory 10 years after



everybody within mysteriously disappeared. You turn on a tape that shows a commercial of a little doll named Poppy and how she is as intelligent as a real human being. The tape glitches and then you see this giant poppy flower. You start off at the factory's front doors where you go to the receptionist desk and get a green VHS tape. You play the tape and it's an announcement from Laithe Pier. He talks about very high-tech Security like motion triggers, cameras, and much more. Then you can either go to the gift shop or security room but the security room has a four-digit color code. You get

the passcode and then get a life-sized blue hand called a grab pack. It allows you to rewire and grab things from far away. You use your Grabpack to head to the lobby where you meet a ten foot tall blue-haired long arm and a long-legged mascot called "Huggy Wuggy" You go to the power room to turn on the power. And then come back to see that Huggy is nowhere to be found.

You go to the "Make A Friend" area but it's closed so you go to the employees-only area. You find a crane that needs batteries to work. You get them and then the crane gives you your red hand for the Grabpack. You use both hands to get transported by a conveyor belt all the way to the "Make A Friend" area. First, you start up the power then you turn on the "Make A Friend" machine you make your friend/toy and then you try to leave to go back to the lobby but Huggy is there and he's mad. He's walking towards you now with his mouth open that has rows of sharp teeth ready to feast. You must run through the vents while Huggy follows, eventually, you make it out to the place where you first see the giant Poppy flower. You drop a box on the rails which causes Huggy to fall into the dark fog. You go towards the Flower and then you see a house like a door. You open it and then it looks like you're in a house you find Poppy Playtime herself in a locked glass case. You open it with your Grabpack the lights flicker then you hear the last message from Poppy: "**You opened my case**"

Elvis Presley

By Sophia Starks

This article is dedicated to my Father, the man who taught me everything I know about Elvis Presley.

Elvis Presley was a famous musician, born on January 8th, 1935 in Mississippi. He grew up as an only child. At the young age of 13 he and his family moved to Tennessee. He died on August 16, 1977 at the young age of 42. Growing up Elvis loved his R&B, soul and blues records. He had albums and singles by John Lee Hooker, B.B. King, James Brown, Aretha Franklin, Sam & Dave, and Chuck Berry.



Elvis Presley inspired many of the musicians and singers we have today. He was known for a new style that helped to modern day rock and roll. When he played he would lightly move his hips. Teenagers liked him so much, because he was something new and exciting. His music had a strong beat to it, which made it exciting to them. He was extremely popular for over 20 years, and even starred in some Hollywood movies.

He had many #1 songs on the radio, including Hound Dog, Heartbreak Hotel, All Shook up, and Blue Christmas.

He played guitar, bass and piano, and often toyed with instruments like the drums, accordion and ukulele. Personally I think Elvis Presley was and still is the best musician and singer out there, but that's just what I think..

My Experience with Covid 19

By Lilly Mancuso

Once I heard that I had Covid I was very upset that I was going to miss Thanksgiving. I found out I had Covid because my mom took me for a test. I didn't feel too well. I was cold and hot at the same time, and I had the sniffles. It can get very exhausting to walk around and go upstairs so I just would like to sit down and relax.

When you have covid you have to isolate for 10 days. This means you have to stay in your house and you can't go anywhere and you have to stay away from other people. This meant we couldn't go to Thanksgiving dinner at my nana's or at my Aunt Diane's and we had to stay home.

During my isolation I have been doing homework, helping my mom, and catching up on my Hallmark Christmas movies. Covid is scary to have because you don't know how it's going to go for you. Since you have to quarantine it's not like a holiday, it's not your time off, and you have to catch up on homework because you're not at school and it's not fun at all. When my isolation ends, I am looking forward to seeing my friends because I'm tired of staying in my house.

The Late Great Croc Catcher

By Landon Warnes

Steve Irwin, "The crocodile hunter," developed his passion to be with animals from his parents, Bob and Lyn, who participated in saving wildlife reptiles. When he started doing it himself he became known as a top croc catcher.



Stephen Robert Irwin was born on February 22, 1962 in Upper FernTree

Gully Australia. On his 6th birthday he received a ten foot scrub python he named Fred. By nine years old he was wrestling his first crocodile.

On Steve Irwin's TV show *The Crocodile Hunter* there were many popular episodes such as "Faces In The Forest" and "Ice Breaker" but the most popular episode is "Africa's Deadliest Snakes". The deadliest snake is the Black Mamba not just in Africa but the entire world.

Steve Irwin has a family too Teri Irwin, his wife, his son Robert Irwin, and his daughter Bindi Irwin. Sadly Steve was stung by a short tail stingray and in the action a crew member was saying "think of your kids, your family hold on hold on hold on". Steve said "I'm dying" and that was the last thing he said. He died on September 4th 2006 in Queensland, Australia. He is buried in the Australian zoo in Landsborough Australia.

Van Gogh's Famous Night

By Lilly Mancuso

This art piece was created by Van Gogh. The name of the painting is *Starry Night*

I chose this piece because the starry night is one of my favorite art pieces from Van Gogh. It is one of my favorites because it's really cool looking and I love trying to recreate it. A lot of Van Gogh's paintings are very famous and have sold for many millions of dollars, but this is his best known creation.

The Starry Night was created because of a dream while he was in a mental asylum as he looked at the countryside through his window before the sun rose.

Vincent Van Gogh was born in the Netherlands in 1853. He was the oldest of six children, two younger brothers and three younger sisters. He also had an older brother who was stillborn. His older brother had the same name Vincent, who died exactly one year before he was born. Vincent van Gogh remained poor and unknown all his life and suffered from mental illness.



Perspectives

Hawaii Bans Swimming With Dolphins

By McKenna Crawford

Swimming with dolphins has been a huge attraction in Hawaii. People are thrilled to swim with these animals and also to learn how these underwater animals live. Many of the tour guides work for a



company called "Dolphin Smart". They would show you around if you wanted to see the dolphins and they would let you swim with

them. It was also a money maker because people from all over the world would come to Hawaii to see and swim with these dolphins and of course a lot of money was to be made. But now it looks like they will lose money and here's why.

Hawaii is the first state in the US to ban swimming with dolphins. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or NOAA announced the rule, and now people have to be 50 yards away from the dolphins to see them.

The reason they put these restrictions on swimming with dolphins was because during the day the dolphins rest, socialize, and take care of the young dolphins in shallow waters, and at night the dolphins hunt. When the humans go near them it disrupts their routine, when that happens the dolphins don't get enough rest during the day. This can lead to health problems, leaving home, and abandoning their young. But since Hawaii has banned this attraction they will get a lot less money in hotels and vacation companies.

Since this attraction started in the 1980s the hotels and vacation companies have generated 39

million dollars each year by taking the tourists to see and swim with the wild dolphins. So the hotels and vacation companies will lose 39 million dollars each year because they do not have swimming with dolphins.

Technology - Double Edged Sword

By Elena Mulkin

Technology has helped lots of adults, teens, and kids. But today I'm going to talk about how it affects peoples' minds and their future, both young and old.

With technology available around their house, children are most likely to be distracted and less likely to focus on one thing at a time. Based on studies, too much time on computers has a bad effect on children's reading ability and their development of imagination. Also kids do crazy unreasonable things. For example children lock themselves inside their rooms to be on social media. Kids use computers and electronics to do classwork but also get distracted by ads that's addicting to young people.

Although it can be destructive, there are some advantages. It saves time when the internet is running. We can better connect with people around the world, and we can use it to help us perform better in art and other activities.

It has affected adults too in multiple ways good and bad. It helps with payment of bills, rent, banking, and other conveniences.



But it also helps criminals to steal identities and pedofiles to stalk children.

Sports

Paralympics

By Ethan Slaven

The paralympics is the Olympics but for disabled people. It happens every four years, and people come from around the world to watch this.

Patrick Anderson is known for his basketball playing in this league for wheelchair basketball. This is one of the more popular of the 23 other sports because basketball is a very popular sport all over the world.

Paralympian Steve Cash participates in sled Hockey. He is a goalie known as the best one in his sport. This is a cool one because they play with no legs, and their skate is in between their thighs. It's an amazing thing to see!

Next is volleyball. The country Iran is the best for sitting volleyball with 4,500 points. This is cool because the players must sit on the court floor and pop the ball high into the air.

I chose this article because it is a good way to show that even if you have a disability you can still be part of the sports community.



Megan Rapinoe, a Great Football Player

By Sophia Kinslow

Megan Rapinoe was born on July 5, 1985. She is a world class athlete who played for the United States of America. She was born at Redding, California. Her age is 36. Her height is 5ft 6in (168cm). Her full name is Megan Anna Rapinoe.

Megan Rapinoe is a great soccer player. It's her favorite game. She is one of the OL Reign of the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL). She is a soccer player who plays as a winger. She won two FIFA World Cups. She was the best FIFA Women's player in 2019. In 2012 she played in the London Summer Olympics. She played for the team at the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup. She finished in second place.

Megan is an activist in social issues. She is married to a woman named Sue Bird.



Winter Olympics

By Maggie Mikula

The Winter Olympics are coming up this February and are going to be better than ever! This year the 2022 Winter Olympics are being held in Beijing, China, and will go on from February 4th - February 20th. There will be 109 events including skating, curling, ice hockey, and skiing.

Some big names you might hear competing with are Shaun White,

Nathan Chen, and Auston

Matthews. Shaun White is US

3 time Olympic gold

medalist snowboarder. He is

35 years old and has been

competing since he was 16.

Nathan Chen is US 2018

Olympic bronze medalist and the 2017 Four Continents

champion. He is 22 and was born in Salt Lake City,

Utah. And Auston Matthews is an NHL player for the

Toronto Maple Leafs, this will be his first time

competing in the Winter Olympics. He is 24 and his

salary is about \$750,000.

The US is sending over 80 athletes to compete this year and hopefully bringing home the gold. At the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics, the US team brought home 23 medals including 9 of which were gold. As we know this is a very fun event, but there is some controversy going around because of China's attitude towards different ethnicities. In early November the Foreign Correspondents Club of China stated that China is trying to "improve international reporting conditions in the run-up to, and during, the Games".



Critter Corner

The Thylacine Question

By Chelsey Tramuto

When people think of extinct creatures they usually think of dinosaurs or animals that existed a long time ago. But this animal is different. This is the thylacine, also known as the Tasmanian tiger or the Tasmanian wolf.

Thylacines were marsupials native to Australia and the islands of Tasmania and New Guinea. They were carnivores and they would usually feed on kangaroos, birds, and small rodents. Also, when European settlers arrived, thylacines would eat poultry and sheep. The settlers got mad and started killing them. This is the main reason why they are now extinct. The last living thylacine died in Beaumaris Zoo on September 7th, 1936.

Thylacines were sandy yellowish-brown to gray. They had around 15 black stripes going down their back to their tail. Their head resembled a dog or wolf while their tail was stiff and they had relatively short legs. Their fur was short, dense, and soft. Since thylacines were marsupials, they had a pouch to raise their young in. The males also had a pouch to protect their organs. They also had huge mouths with 46 teeth. They could open their mouths up to 120 degrees. Its closest relative is the Tasmanian devil.



Since the last Thylacine died, there have been so many sightings that a lot of people question whether or

not a very small population of this animal still exists and we just haven't fully proved it yet.

Red Pandas

By Sophia Kinslow

Red pandas live in the Eastern Himalayas in places like China, Nepal, and Bhutan. They spend most of their time in trees. They eat bamboo and leaves. Red pandas may live as long as 23 years. They show symptoms of age at around 12 to 14 years old.

They have large, round heads and short snouts with big, pointed ears. Their faces are white with reddish-brown "tear" marks that extend from the eyes to the corner of the mouth. Red pandas live alone but when they are in a family they don't live alone.

Red pandas have whiskers like cats. The red panda is slightly larger than a domestic cat. Red pandas are like cats by red pandas whiskers that make them look like cats. Red have stripes on their tail as you can see in the pictures. Adult red pandas typically weigh between 8 and 17 pounds (3.6 and 7.7 kilograms) and are 22 to 24.6 inches (56 to 62.5 centimeters) long, plus a tail of 14.6 to 18.6 inches.



The World Out There

The Future of Harry Potter

By Lailynne Tarnowski

Harry Potter is going to be on Broadway, and the show is going to be called " Harry Potter and the Cursed Child". The show is about Harry Potter's younger son who is about to go to Hogwarts and that is when the story begins.

The show is going to be in New York City, San Francisco, California, and Europe. They are going to expand the show to many other countries too. In this show, Harry Potter, Hermione, and Ron are joined by a

New Generation of Wizards. We will see spells and battles and much more.

If you want to buy tickets they cost over a hundred dollars a piece in America. Dec 7 is opening night at Curran theater in San Francisco.



Bora Bora: French Polynesian Paradise

By Olivia Cole

Bora Bora is a place I've always wanted to visit. Bora Bora is a small yet gorgeous island in French Polynesia. Its native languages are French, Tahitian and English. The waters surrounding the island are a beautiful turquoise blue and are crystal clear. They have wonderful resorts, including villas on the water. Bora Bora is known for its volcanic views and white sandy beaches.

Visiting this island would be nice, but living there would be even better! There are three villages named Anua, Faanui, and Vaitape. Between these villages, there are about 9,000 permanent residents. Because the island is so small, there are no forms of public transportation. Most people walk, drive or ride bikes everywhere. These are some perks of a small community.

There are tons of fun or relaxing activities you can do while visiting. You can go snorkeling, visit a relaxing spa, go on a boat tour of the nearby vegetation islands, swim with sharks and so many more sea animals. There are also ATVs to ride around the extraordinary landscapes with Jet Ski privileges too. These may be fun and all but tradition is the most important.

There are many traditions, festivals, and even rituals that are native to the French Polynesian (Tahiti) lands. One festival is called the ***Bora Bora Liquid Festival***.

This festival is for daring athletes to compete against each other in watersports and games in the lagoon. Tourists are encouraged to see all the athletic performances. Another festival is called the ***Heiva I Bora Bora***. This is the biggest annual festival held in all of Tahiti's islands. In Bora Bora, it is held in Vaitape, and it is a festival for traditional Polynesian costumes, skills, and music. Also, there is loads of singing, dancing, craft demonstrations, and once again, watersports.

Bora Bora sounds so amazing, don't you want to go there too?



Oklahoma Is Softball Little League Champs

By Jenna Fryberger

The softball Little League World Series is one of the best-known youth sporting events. The little league world series started on August 11, 2021, and ended on August 18, 2021. To qualify for the world series hundreds of teams play in the district, section, state, and regional games.

The girls little league has been going on for 47 years. Softball used to be called "mush ball", "kitten ball", "indoor baseball". George Hancock created the rules for the game softball in 1887.

This year the games were played in Greenville, North Carolina. Ten teams of girls 10 to 12 made it to the world series. Oklahoma was undefeated in this year's tournament as they entered the championship game. This is the first time a team from Oklahoma has won the little league world series.



City in the Sky

By Izzie Czekanski

Machu Picchu is a mountain in Peru with a city on top of the mountain. Machu Picchu is also known as the "City in the Sky" and is 7927 feet tall with 150 buildings.

Machu Picchu was cleared out an estimated 100 years after being built by the Incas in the 15th and 16th century. Archeologists say it was abandoned

because the Incas got smallpox and other diseases from the Spanish.

This amazing find was discovered by Hiram Bingham who asked the locals if there were any artifacts he could see and they pointed towards the mountain. So technically Hiram wasn't the one to discover it, but he was the one to spread the news about it in his book *The Lost City of the Incas*.

After Hiram's book everyone knew about the sky city they all wanted to see. Now Machu Picchu is a very famous tourist attraction. It is estimated that Peru makes \$40 million a year from tourists traveling to this remarkable landmark.



Chocolate - An Ancient Invention

By Cassidy Cataldo

Chocolate is something that has been around for quite a long time now. It is said that over five thousand years ago is when chocolate was first invented. Chocolate comes from cocoa beans which are on trees native to both South and Central America. The birthplace of chocolate is in the upper Amazon region of Ecuador. The Mayo-Chinchipeculture is associated with the first finding of the cacao by archeologists from 5,300 years ago.

Chocolate was more bitter back then. People had chocolate as an unsweetened frothy drink at that time. The earliest finding of cacao found by the archeologists was from the Mayo-Chinchipeculture that lived about 5,300 years ago who was also known as Mesoamericans. They believed that it had healing, and restoring energy qualities. They used it for funerals and religious ceremonies.

Chocolate truly became popular when companies started adding their own flavors such as sugar and vanilla. For today's chocolate we have popular brands such as Nestle, Hershey, Dove, M&Ms, and Lindt. Compared to the past we also have many different kinds of chocolate such as dark chocolate, milk chocolate, semi-sweet chocolate, bittersweet chocolate, and so many more. Today's chocolate brands do special things to their chocolate to make their chocolate taste delicious. Hershey uses farm fresh milk in their chocolate to make it taste better. Another brand is Nestle where they use natural sweeteners by using the beans and pulp from the cocoa fruit. These differences make their chocolate taste different than other brands.



Behind The Scenes Of Blasdell Pizza

By Claire Dulak

America loves pizza, and there are literally thousands of pizzarias across the country. But what most people don't know about is what goes on in the making of pizzas. One of the most popular pizzerias in our area happens to be run by my family, so I want to share....

The President of Blasdell Pizza is Mark Dulak (my dad) and the Vice President is Elisha Dulak (my mom). They employ people to work as kitchen staff and

drivers
and



managers.

There are seven stations for Employees: a wing station, a pizza station, a delivery station, ovens, subs, wraps, and dishes.

In the Morning the owner or managers make the Dough. Then they shred cheese and make the pizza sauce. Then they count wings, and cut produce. Finally they slice meat. Their busiest hour is lunch 11:00-12:30 and Dinner 5:00-12:30.

They offer different kinds of pizza. Some of them are Chicken finger, Stake, White, Spaghetti parm, pickle, cheese, and cheese pepperoni.

This was the sneak peek behind the counter at Blasdell Pizza. I hope you enjoyed it.

A Harry Potter Quiz Show!

By Maxwell Kropp

There is a new four-episode Harry Potter quiz show called *Harry Potter: Tournament of Houses* streaming live on Hulu Live TV, DirecTV Stream, Sling TV, and YouTube TV. The show started on November 28 at 8 PM with episode 1: Gryffindor vs. Hufflepuff . Episode 2 (Ravenclaw vs. Slytherin) streams on December 5th, episode 3 (Wildcard round) is on December 12th, and episode 4 (The Finale) is on December 19th.

It's basically a game show where Harry Potter fans join to test their knowledge about the movies and books. They're doing this quiz show because Harry Potter is still enormously popular after the 24th anniversary of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone in book form and the 20th anniversary of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone in movie form.

The questions they ask are not very complicated. I watched the 1st episode and I got all the questions right in the part that I watched (I've only read the first 5 books and seen the first 2 movies so it's possible that they asked the questions in order of the books). Some of the questions are as follows: "Name the four Hogwarts Houses", and "How does Harry get the lightning bolt scar on his forehead?" and "How many points do you get when you catch a snitch?"

The show also has cast members from the Harry Potter movies like guest stars Pete Davidson, Simon Fisher-Becker, Matthew Lewis, Dan Fogler, Tom Felton, Shirley Henderson, Jay Leno, and Luke Youngblood.

Team Seas

By Izzie Czekanski

Team Seas is an organization concerned with helping pollution in our oceans. Every dollar donated to Seas is one pound less of pollution in the sea.

Team Seas has partnered up with many famous content creators on youtube. With the most recognised being multi millionaire MrBeast and Mark Rober. But there are many other famous content creators such as Dhar Mann, Serum, and many more working to spread the word of Team Seas and make a difference.

Beast and Rober's goal is to raise 30,000,000 dollars which would be 30,000,000 pounds less pollution in the ocean. Currently December 10 they've raised 17,872,000. If you go to teamseas website you can see a live money count of how much has been donated.

You might be wondering how they will clean up this much pollution from the ocean. Well then I have an answer for you. They have a machine named "the ocean clean up" which works like a boat. It floats by trash and picks it up by its filter and then throws it away.



Mummies Exposed!

By Aria Green

On Halloween night, everyone gets dressed up in costumes like witches, black cats, vampires and other monstrous creatures. But did you know that when you dress up as a mummy, it's based on what the Egyptians did when someone died? Here's how mummies are made and how linen for their bodies is made!



2,300 years ago, there were common Egyptians and there were pharaohs, who were rich and powerful. When poor Egyptians passed away, they were just thrown away like garbage. But many pharaohs back then passed away and were put in great graves. They were often made into mummies and placed in pyramids or hiding areas because nobody wanted the gold in their tombs to be stolen.

The process of having their dead bodies turned into mummies took 70 whole days. They first took all their organs out. They had to take out their brains by having it go through their nostril. But, they only left the heart in their body because they believed that it was the center of a person's being and intelligence. Then, they put spices to make it smell better and give it more lifelike appearances. Afterwards, they put linen around their bodies.

The process of making linen is that they had to find a flax plant, which is a rare kind of plant. They had to spin the fibers into the thread, which after would make a wooly fabric. But, this was not an easy job, it took at least 45 days to make some.

Now, let's get to where and how the piece of linen was found, and where it was put. Some archeologists were doing their research, in New Zealand, until they found a 2,300

year old linen while digging. After that, they did research on linen, and after that they put it in "The Teece Museum of Classical Antiquities"

Heinz Unveils "Marz Edition" Ketchup For Space Pioneers

By Robert Harrington

If you went to Mars would you want ketchup? Well, if you do Heinz is making New Mars ketchup. There was a team of 14 scientists who worked to grow the tomatoes to make this new ketchup in "The RedHouse" at the Aldrin Space Institute at Florida Tech for about two years.

The tomatoes were grown in Mars-like conditions. The scientists recreated similar soil, temperature, and developed similar water that can be found in Mars polar ice caps. Recreating soil from other planets on Earth can help us know how to grow food on other planets. Mars does not get much sunlight compared to Earth.

This Mars ketchup is very important because it shows how food can be grown in the worst conditions on Earth and on other planets. Also it shows how soil from other planets can be recreated. This ketchup will not be for sale to the public because the scientists are just trying to test this idea. If it was for sale, would you put it on your cheeseburger?

Maori Culture

By Sienna Alston

In Maori cosmology, whales are the descendants of Tangaroa, who is the god of the oceans. They were thought of as awesome supernatural beings, and they were also often deemed tapu, or sacred. In some places, whales were seen as a sign indicating to a tribe that



they should settle in a certain place. Whales were valued as an important food source.

Maori culture originated from the Country of New Zealand. An important part of their culture is tattoos or what they call Moko. A few facts about Moko are Moko isn't considered moko if it isn't done by or on Maori people. Moko is experiencing a resurgence in popularity today. Moko is mostly done on the face and lips. Moko is a symbol of integrity and identity.

Another important piece of their culture is Haka. Haka is a form of dancing that is commonly found in New Zealand and it was first played at a rugby game in New Zealand in 1888, Haka is performed at celebratory events such as birthdays, funerals, weddings, and other celebratory events. Haka was created in the 1820's by Te Rauparaha.

A form of martial arts in the Maori culture is called Mau Rakau. The main focus of Mau Rakau is weaponry and the type of weaponry that was used in this specific type of martial arts is called Pouwhenua. Pouwhenua are

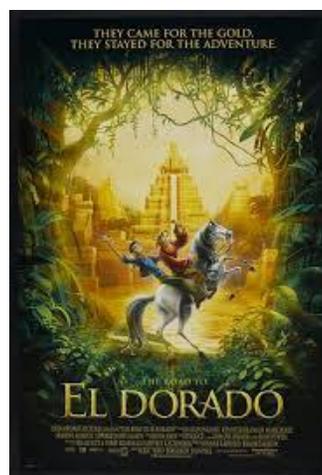
land posts and they are elaborately carved and contain a narrative that connects tangata with the whenua and their ancestral past.

El Dorado

By Khloe Munson

El Dorado is a legend that originated during an era called the Age of Exploration. European countries would send explorers to the Americas. While there they learned of a tribe called Muisca. This tribe didn't see gold as a fortune; they thought of it as an offering to the gods. Europeans looked hard for El Dorado, especially the Conquistadors from Spain. They were conquering native tribes in what is today called Mexico because they wanted to find gold. Many people even died on the long journey.

The El Dorado story is not known to be real or fake. Researchers say El Dorado wasn't a place but maybe a person, a great king perhaps. The king of the Muisca tribe was stripped and covered in gold, then dove into the lake to wash it off as a sacrifice to the gods. Some say the king was called El Hombre Dorado (The Golden Man) but what you believe is up for interpretation. Some people believe it's real but most others don't.



Artists On The High Wire

By Jonovan Kristan

Tightrope walking was invented June 30th, 1859. Tightrope walking is an extreme sport. Tightrope walking is also known as funambulism, and those who do it are sometimes referred to as high wire artists. It is



one of the most extreme sports in the air. It involves walking on

really thin wire or rope at really high heights.

Sometimes the artists use a balance post to help them in especially dangerous places.

It used to be regularly seen in circuses. The first ever tightrope walker was Charles Blondin in 1859. He has done many stunts but his most difficult one was the first time he went downstream on Niagara Falls.

Nik Wallenda was the most recent one; she was a high walker. She walked across the Masaya Volcano near Managua, Nicaragua on a tightrope recently. The 1,800 foot walk across the volcano's active lava lake took Wallenda 31 minutes and was filmed for a live program for ABC.

Tightrope walking is definitely an extreme challenge. Would you like to try it?

A Holy And Musical Christmas

By Michelle Fuglewicz

Christmas is a time of the year to spend time with your family and friends, and it's also Jesus' Birthday.

Christmas has the words "Christ" and "mass." This means the holy mass of Christ.

Christmas is celebrated this year on December 25th on a Saturday. Some People go to mass before midnight to honor Jesus' birth because they believe that Jesus was born at midnight.

Here are some of the greatest hit Christmas songs:

"All I Want for Christmas is You"

"Last Christmas"

"White Christmas"

"Jingle Bell Rock"

Christmas is a holy and beautiful time of the year. With familiar music and bright, colored lights, we celebrate Jesus' birthday.

A Diet of Plants and Insects?

By Emersyn Strefeler

Climate change is caused by many things, but animal agriculture is one main cause. Cows and other grazing animals pass gas all day from digesting the grass and plants they eat. When our pets eat food made with beef they also emit greenhouse gasses from burping or farting. These greenhouse gasses let sunlight pass through the atmosphere, but they prevent the heat that sunlight brings from leaving the atmosphere.

A pet food company named Yora is now offering the option of plant based pet food as a way to help the environment. Many people are already choosing plant based proteins to cut meat consumption but their pets are still eating pork, beef and other meats. When these



animals burp or fart it creates greenhouse gasses which aren't safe for the environment. These gasses remain in Earth's atmosphere and trap heat causing the planet to warm up.

Meat eating pets produce 64 million tons of greenhouse gasses each year. The company Yora has shipped over 200 tons of their product to more than 200 countries and generated sales over 2.8 million.

In addition to the plant based foods, manufacturers in North America and Europe are trying to make pet food more environmentally friendly by using proteins from insects instead of animals. They expect consumers to be more conscious when it comes to buying their pet food. The advantages of insect farming are requiring less land and water, emitting less greenhouse gasses, and having high feed conversion efficiency. With these insect based plant foods we are helping fight against climate change.

The First Engines

This is the first in a series about the history of trains in America by Jacob Congdon

America was built on trains. In the past, if America did not have trains then people would not have medicine, food, and other goods. Thanks to trains America came a long way. Trains are important because they carry goods all around the country and very fast too.

The first trains ran on steam engines. The world's first locomotive hauled railway journey took place on February 21, 1804, when Trevithick's unnamed locomotive hauled a train along the tramway of the Penydarren Ironworks, in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales in the UK.

A steam engine is a machine that burns coal to release the heat energy it contains. It's a bit like a giant kettle sitting on top of a coal fire. The heat from the fire boils the water and turns it into steam. But instead of blowing off uselessly into the air, like the steam from the kettle, the steam is captured and used to power a machine. Steam engines were used to power industrial services. Before steam engines most factories were powered by wind, water, horse, or man.

The first steam train in America was called "Tom Thumb". It was called Tom Thumb because the locomotive was small and lightweight. Tom Thumb was



also a folk tale character and he is smaller than a hand. That is why the train is named after him. The Tom Thumb train went from Baltimore to Ellicott Mills in Maryland. It is 12.5 miles between them, a 24 minute trip back then.

Siberia

By Joseph Sekuterski

Siberia is a region in Russia that became a country on December 25, 1991. But before that was the Soviet Union which formed on December 30, 1922. Siberia spans all of northern Asia and extends from the

Ural Mountains to the hills of north central Kazakhstan and Mongolia and China too. It is also in the eastern and southward to the Arctic ocean.

It has 13.1 million square kilometers and has 33 million people. It has the biggest plain region it spans from the Ural mountains to the Yenisei River. The highest point is the active volcano Klyuchevskaya Sopka on the Kamchatka Peninsula; its peak is 15,580 feet. Novosibirsk is the largest city with a population of 1.5 million in the southwest on the banks of the Ob river.

In January it has an average of -13 degrees. The people live in log houses or houses in small villages near rivers. Their religion is the Russian Orthodox Church. Lake Baikal is 397 miles long and 50 miles wide with a depth of 5,314 feet. It is home to the largest wild cat in the world, the Siberian tiger, it's also home to a domestic cat called the Siberian cat and Siberian husky, a medium sized dog native to the Chukchi Peninsula in eastern Siberia. In conclusion if you like cold weather than you'll love siberia



Tiger Woods

By Delaney Cataldo

Tiger Woods is one of the greatest golfers ever and he has his parents to thank for all of this.

Tiger Woods' Dad, an African American, was in the Army and served during the Vietnam war. His Mom was born in Thailand and lived most of her life in America. They encouraged him after they saw what natural ability he had.

Tiger Woods grew up in California. When Tiger was 3 he shot a 48 over 9 holes. At the age of 9 he wanted to become a professional golf player. When He was 21 he was the youngest to



win the Masters Championship for golf.

Tiger Woods drove a record of 270 yards. In 2003 Tiger Woods got 5 wins. In 2004 Tiger Woods married a Swedish model. In 2005 Tiger Woods won 6 championships.

The next question a lot of people are asking is will Tiger Woods return after almost losing his right leg in a car accident. He said that he wants to play in the 2021 PNC Championship in Orlando on December 18-19 with his son, Charlie. We hope he makes a great comeback from his terrible injury.

Up Close & Personal



Mrs. Marsh

By Dylan Ott

Mrs. Marsh is the secretary at NCCS (Northern Chautauqua Catholic School) located in Dunkirk, NY. This school is a relatively small Elementary / Middle school from grades PreK 3 - 8th. She grew up her whole life in Fredonia.

Mrs. Marsh was offered the job when the previous secretary, Mrs. Whitcher, found out she was now the Pre K 3 teacher. Without a doubt in her mind she accepted the job "She loves doing what she does".

In her free time she likes to treat herself with maybe a pedicure, hair day, spa day, or a tanning day. Mrs. Marsh went to St Anthony's for PreK 4- 3rd grade then Fredonia schools 4th-12th. She has one brother Joseph, two kids, one 20 Jacob and the other one Elise 9. Everyone loves her!

Mr. Stimson

By Isabella Buckley

I'm sure all of you are familiar with Mr. Stimson, the Social Studies student teacher. He grew up in Falconer, a small town near Jamestown about 40 minutes away from us. He described Falconer as a small and quiet town with small schools.

Mr. Stimson attended Falconer High School. During his high school years, he developed his interest in teaching. Once he graduated, he started his college years at JCC. There he received his Associate's Degree.



Later on, he transferred to SUNY Fredonia in hopes of pursuing his career in teaching. His transfer was for reasons such as it was a closer college to home and it was one of the best schools to go to for teaching. There he will be receiving his Bachelor's Degree. He has two majors, which are social studies education and history.

Mr. Stimson's interest in history started when he was just a toddler and grew as his grandfather told him stories about his experiences in WWII. From those stories, he was inspired to learn more and dig deeper into history. Mr. Stimson quoted, "I think learning history is important because history often repeats itself. If people do not learn from their mistakes, then we may repeat the same mistakes. I also think it's really important to understand the past because the events of the past have created the world that we live in today. In understanding the past, you are better able to understand the present."

Some of his hobbies and personal interests include fishing, watching sports, and keeping snakes. Mr. Stimson hopes to see himself teaching history and social studies in the future. Now you know all the secrets behind the 'stache.'

BTS Of The Lion King

By Mikaela Sciarrino

There's no such thing as a good show without music or lights. I mean think, you would need your friends to use their flashlights to shine the spotlight on you! If you had a show and you didn't have lights, speakers, and microphones, you'd have to shout to be heard. And you wouldn't be seen! So that just shows if you don't have these items you can't really have a show. I'm going to show you how to work these speakers and lights and how to prepare for them.

This equipment provides preparedness, so if you want to buy or get ready for this here is what you will need

	ITEMS	COST
1.	Lights	\$ 10,000
2.	Speakers	\$ 1,000- 5,000
3.	Microphones	\$ 6-15
4.	Mixing boards	\$ 700-1,000
5.	Computers	\$ 400-5,400
6.	Receivers	\$ 200-600
7.	Battery packs	\$ 144 per pack

If you wanted to do a show you would need around 15,000 dollars just for equipment! Then you would need to buy props, and that rounds to almost

20,000! That would be a crazy amount of money! Unless you are already saving up and planning on doing this professionally. Now I'm going to show you

How all this works: In order for the lights to work you would need wires connecting through the space you're working in. Then You would need rugs to cover them so people don't trip over them. Now this is where speakers, mics, and computers come in. First you set up the speakers somewhere people can hear them quickly, so don't put them in the back because people wouldn't be able to hear them as well. Then you download special apps on your computer, and use those apps to connect the battery packs, plug your mics into the battery packs, and plug your computer into the mixing board, using the mixing board to turn the volume of the songs up. Then using your computer download a playlist and sing along to any of your favorite songs!

Now you can relax and enjoy being in the spotlight, without your friend's camera shining on you, and enjoy not having to shout if you want to be heard! Now you can start a musical, maybe even a business! Think of all you can do now, and maybe just maybe, you could be a pro time DJ when you grow up! Time to start saving up!



Monarch Nation

New Journeys

from Mr. Ludwig

After more than seven years of School, Ms. Tina Cooper has Ethan to the Indiana-Kentucky will allow them to be near that neither can experience in knowing that Ms. Cooper and upside makes it just a bit best wishes to Ms. Cooper and



dutiful service to Northern Chautauqua Catholic made the difficult decision to relocate with her son border area. This new start for Ms. Cooper and Ethan family and will provide opportunities for both of them the Dunkirk area. Goodbyes are always difficult but Ethan are off to a new beginning with a tremendous easier to say goodbye to our friends. Good luck and Ethan. You take the love of Monarch Nation with you.

Mrs. Linda Valone came out of Northern Chautauqua Catholic for Mrs. Valone to take a little herself. Mrs. Valone promises to volunteer and/or as a devoted gentle and calm demeanor and



retirement three and a half years ago to teach at School. After 3.5 excellent years at NCCS, it is time time from the fast paced life of a teacher to care for return to NCCS as a substitute teacher and/or as a grandmother. Mrs. Valone will be remembered for her for her huge heart. Happy retirement #2 Mrs. Valone!

In The Cocoon

An update on pre-K through 4th grade from Mrs. Crossan

We have been very busy in Pre K 4 these past few months. We have a wonderful student teacher, Mrs. Jenna Hepp. She has been a nice addition to our class family. Mrs. Hepp's last day with us will be Friday, December 17, 2021. She will be sorely missed.

We are learning about Christmas celebrations in other countries. We have learned about traditions in Mexico, Sweden, Germany and Australia. Each country has different traditions but the center of them all is the birth of Christ.

We have been working on several STREAM activities. We have built towers with cups, structures with toothpicks and marshmallows, and hotels with magnetic tiles. The Pre K 4 students love to do art projects, sing, dance, and create. Stream is a large part of our day. Pre K 4 is a very special place to be. Please come to visit anytime!

Dressing Down on Fridays

By Sophia Burrows

As we all know, we have a school dress code. For the girls they have to wear white polos and either a plaid or navy skirt. For the boys they have to also wear white polos but with either navy shorts or navy pants. Now we have "add to" uniform days for Birthdays and BILLS days and a few other exceptions, but we don't have a lot.

My idea is that every other Friday we should have out of uniform days. My perspective is that we go to a Catholic School and we wear uniforms almost all the time. Some people say that we act out in uniform, and that there are more discipline problems. But I don't believe that. We all go to a good education. So I believe that if we wear out of uniform we won't act out if we want a good education.



all the time people don't see the true us. I know that clothes don't tell people who you are exactly, but it does show your way of creativity. To dress down. You wear an outfit, maybe something like a colorful shirt and matching pants. That shirt could be a color and that one color specifically might be your favorite color. Or it could have an image of a dog or something you are interested in. This shows you what your values are and it shows other people that too. Now obviously these outfits can't be MTV outfits, and they would have to be school appropriate.

When we wear uniforms

On Fridays sometimes we have a BILLS add to uniform day. Now what if people don't like the BILLS, or they have no interest in football at all. It's not fair to those people that everyone else gets to add to their uniform and they don't. This is why we should have out of uniform every other Friday.



Should Gaming Have a Time Limit for Kids?

By Julia Askar

There are a lot of people in the US who like to play video games. It makes up 21% of the US population gamers. In many ways, gaming can be fun for people. It's a fun way to relax after a long day. About 2.5 billion of the world population is gamers. That is almost half the world! Gaming can entice players into a new world, but also is very harmful if overused for hours on end. Gaming is very fun to do and research has shown it can help with certain jobs, but gaming can also be very harmful to the human body, making it unhealthy.

Gaming is a very nice way to relax. Some research has shown that gaming can help players improve focus and concentration. They can even help great way to home. Games are a connect with friends and family, especially if you aren't in the same adventures.

Playing video games can entice players into fun game for However, because of this, some of the players can be playing the hours on end. Time limits on games could help with serious problems like addiction or depression. Gaming can take up time for other activities like reading or cooking. Most games are played sitting, while that isn't very good to be doing for lots of time per day, so games should have time limits.

Parents can also help with addiction. Be mindful about how your child uses games, and be aware about what apps and games your child downloads. Arrange indoor and outdoor activities with your child to help with addiction.



shown that can even help great way to home. adventures. game for

Facebook Delays the Launch of Instagram for Kids.

By Hannah Powell

Instagram is a well known social media app used by 1.386 billion people. The app is used to share photos, videos, and to go live. However this app can be abused. Some people pretend to be someone they are not, and some people cyberbully.



Facebook has decided to delay the launch of Instagram for kids. Many people believe that the launch of this app will cause serious mental health problems.

Studies have shown that 59% of teens in the United States have experienced some sort of cyberbullying or mental health struggles through social media. Someone spending 3 or more hours on the app or any other social media platform is more likely to have these mental health issues than someone who doesn't. Facebook was well aware of these studies and have since put pause on the operation.

Instagram was made to share your life with your friends and family, however most of the time people only share the highlights of their lives. Children's minds are only partially developed. They don't have the capacity to logically think and understand that half of the posts are fake and the other half are just the good parts of that person's life. So when children see a photo of someone doing, seeing, or experiencing something great they most of the time automatically assume that is their entire life which makes the child feel insecure.

There could be more problems besides the children's mental health. Predators could get on the app, stalk, and harass children. While this app may seem like a good idea, the concept and the algorithm of how many likes, views, and followers you have determines how great your life is isn't a healthy environment for a child to be in.

Inside Pearl Harbor "The Day that will live in infamy."

By: Landon Trippi

The day was December 7, 1941 in a Naval base on Oahu island Hawaii. When at 7:55 am one of the most horrifying events our country has ever faced happened: The bombing of Pearl Harbor.

On this day our country was aerially attacked by the Japanese. But did you know the first shot of the battle happened a over an hour before the bombing took place.

The shot was taken by the U.S destroyer, USS Ward. USS Ward spotted and in one shot sank a Japanese midget submarine while it was trying to sneak into the harbor.

An hour later the harbor was attacked. During a span of 90 minutes 353 Imperial Japanese aircrafts that had launched from six aircraft carriers. They had killed 2,403 service members and wounded 1,178. The Japanese had also sunk 6 U.S ships and had destroyed 169 U.S Navy and Army Corps planes. But the Japanese could not do this without paying a price. The Japanese lost 29 aircrafts, 5 midget subs, and 129 attackers were also killed.

During all this bloodshed there was only 1 prisoner Kazo Sakmaki. He was taken prisoner by the U.S after his midget submarine agrounded. Kazuo Sakmaki was the first Japanese prisoner of war in World War 2.

This horrendous attack was coordinated by one of the best strategists Japan has ever had, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto. The Admiral was killed on Bougainville Island when his transport bomber aircraft was shot down by United States Army Air forces fighter aircrafts.

Though December 7, 1941 will forever live in infamy, it is important never to forget this day. So that we can always remember the brave men defended our country. They are the true American heros.



A vast, beautiful land of ice and snow called Antarctica.

By Henry Drab

When you say Antarctica you might think snow, ice, Penguins, mabe even Santa Claus. I think Glaciers when I think of Antarctica. You might think of snow, ice, and Penguins because People tell you that Antarctica lacks biodiversity and is a cold vast wasteland, but it's not. Antarctica is a beautiful land with wildlife and sheets of ice as big as your house.

Antarctica is in the South pole right under South America. Antarctica is almost all circular besides the Antarctic Peninsula. Antarctica's name means opposite to the Arctic. If you have Antarctica's temperature, the high right now is 41 °F and the low is -24°F. Antarctica just has 2 seasons: Summer and winter.

In total there were five successful trips to Antarctica, The first trip was in 1911 by Roald Amundsen from Norway. Roald and his team beat a British



team led by Robert Falcon Scott, by 33 days. The next Trip was in 1914 by Ernest Shackleton and his men. They planned to cross the continent by sled but their ship got stuck in the ice and spent 22 months trapped in the ice. In 1935 Danish-Norwegian Caroline Mikkelsen became the first woman to set foot on Antarctica. On January 13 2018 Matthieu Tordeur became the first French and youngest in the world to ski solo, unsupported and unassisted, from the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole. In 2020 Mollie Hughes skied from Hercules Inlet to the pole, traveling 1,130 km.

In 2021 Scientists discovered a sessile sponge attached to the sides of a rock beneath an ice sheet. Scientists thought that life could not live in this harsh climate of -24 F. A sessile sponge disproves this theory. Its discovery could help Scientists uncover more life under the ice sheets.

Free Writers

The End Of The World

By Abigale Strang

The air has a different ring

In the scarlet and gold the world did bring

We faced the sky and saw the silver craft depart

But the whole thing just looked like a work of art

They were the last of the chosen few

On there way to find another world to start anew

It started when the earth's magnetic field started to die

And the life giving atmosphere was draining from the sky

There was one chance for human race

To find a new world in God's grace

So they came together to make the call

And map a space voyage to survive it all

So they start their journey with hopes on high

To a twin earth planet with a beautiful sky

And the rest of us are left to do the best we can

The end of the world as it just began

Snowy Day

By Olivia Cole

Falling down soft and white,

Falling down through day and night

Quietly reaches ground,

Hiding anything below to be found

It covers bushes, lawns, and trees,

As kids play, it's up to their knees

A beautiful scene that fits the season,

Families come together with one reason

It's the love-filled time of year,

For the snowy season is finally here





Watching Over

By Olivia Cole

Looking out the window staring in the dark.

Looking right back at me, the moon above the park.

He smiled at me, a way I hadn't seen before;

Looking into his deep yellow eyes is when I knew for sure.

The moon was watching over, everything you could see;

The moon was watching over the waking world to be.

I should have watched big brother

By Myah Suzette Benjamin

In the woods at my friend's campsite, I'm thinking there's a murder and I'm a witness... Let's start from the beginning.

I've never been very good in the woods. don't get me wrong, I love big, wide open nature itself, but I'm just not good in the scary woods.

Like the first time I ever went into the woods, I got covered in mud. Then another time I fell into a creek. Then there was the time I got covered in mud AND fell into a creek at the same time.

Here comes the almost murder part... I was invited to my friend's campsite which was somewhere between nature and the woods.

We were laughing a lot, making smores, throwing that stuff into the campfire that changes its color. That was weird because my friend didn't read the directions and he just threw the whole packet into the fire. The fire went up and a hot coal from the fire hit me in the leg. Ouch!!! I still have a scar. It was so hot! I picked it up and threw it into the tree and then the tree started smoking. What the what??? I got nervous hoping the whole tree didn't go up in flames. Yikes!!!

We started roasting marshmallows which, thinking about it now, probably wasn't a good idea with all those chemicals making the fancy colored fire. Anyway, all of a sudden, this dog comes running over. It looked like a chihuahua mixed with something, but I'm not sure what Kind. odd looking for sure.



That crazy dog came running right up to me like I was his long lost friend. I was petting it, but my brother and friend scared it away. They're not big into dogs. My friend was afraid of the dog, so he ran to the side of the camper. The dog didn't know what was going on so he ran too, then it took off in the other direction .

A little bit later the dog came back again. That crazy dog! My friend still wasn't having it and he scared the dog away.

All of a sudden, we heard terrible screaming. We thought maybe someone was afraid of the woods too. But then we heard it, "HELP! HELP! HELP!!!" Our parents told us to hide in the trailer. It seemed like the world was falling down around us. We hid in the camper. We thought maybe someone was trying to be funny to scare us.

We thought the coast was clear so we went back outside. In the dark we were all looking around. We really couldn't see much, but all of a sudden, it started again. "HELP! HELP! HELP!!!" What could be going on??? My friend, brother, and I didn't even walk up the steps of the camper this time. We literally just jumped into the trailer like 4 feet off the ground. We dove in there so fast. We even grabbed frying pans for protection in case we needed to swing at something..

It stopped after a little bit, so the boys said maybe we should go outside. I said I don't think so, but did they listen to me... NO. Like always they didn't listen. they never listen!!!

The screaming started a third time and we saw exactly where it was coming from. This man and lady were in a nearby trailer arguing. Boy were they loud! They almost fell out of the trailer Because they kept slamming the door.

Again, we went and hid in the camper. we had the lights off so that they couldn't see us as we were looking out the window. We thought for sure that someone was murdered.

All of a sudden It got quiet, too quiet. We decided to sneak back outside, but we realized we were missing something. We couldn't find our parents. Where were our parents? We were freaking out! my brother gave us each the frying pans again. I said to him, "What Are we to do with these? We are not in tangled!" I knew I should have brought my baseball bat. I should always bring my baseball bat when I go out into the woods. What was I thinking? We saw our parents a little ways away in the dark, from the camper. They were trying to see what happened. We couldn't call the police because one of the phones died and the other couldn't get service. luckily some other person at the campsite did call them. The police came and questioned the people. We were able to get some of it all on video. So the cops left after some questioning and a lot of arguing going on.

We were all worked up watching all the activity, when some guy, with no shoes on, came up to us looking for Bernie or Ernie or something like that. We said , "Who?" He said the Chihuahua. Oh my gosh!!! It was the guy from the trailer, who killed the lady!!! But go figure...The lady wasn't murdered after all... She was just looking for her dog! I should have stayed home and just watched big brother.

A Christmas puppy

By Delaney Cataldo



This puppy's name was Lapiss. Lapiss was looking forward to Christmas but that is only because she did not know what was ahead of her. It was Christmas eve and Lapiss's Mom and Dad put

extra grease in lapis's dog food. After Lapis was done eating she went outside to check out all the cool activities. There was a ping pong table, a cookie contest table and lapis's favorite one, a dog treat table. She walked over to the dog treat table and she got a free treat.

After Lapis ate the treat she saw something interesting in the woods. "What's that?" Lapis said. She felt like somebody was standing right next to her. Then she saw a weird figure in the woods. Whoever this figure was did not look friendly, and it looked like it wanted to be messed with.

The figure had a weird hat and shoes with curled up toes. "Can it be?" Lapis said "a Christmas elf." She froze for a second and said, "wait, elves are friendly creatures it should not hurt me." The elf kept coming closer and closer, then scooped Lapis up and put her in a bag.

The next thing Lapis knew she was in a giant workshop filled with toys and candy. Lapis said "could it be Santa's workshop?"

An elf replied "yep that is exactly where you are. My name is Eli, and what is yours?"

"My name is Lapis" Lapis said. "If this is Santa's workshop then where is Santa"

"hohoho!" said Santa. Lapis screamed "look there he is, am I dreaming?"

Santa picked her up. "Can I trust you with this magic candle?" Santa said. Lapis nodded.

"Well then take this far away and hide it somewhere if Witchwhirl finds this he will use it for black magic" Santa explained.

"What kind of black magic" Lapis asks. "You do not want to know,"

Santa said. "a long time ago Witchwhirl was a young boy who played games, played outside, but when he went to school one day something bad happened but nobody knows what happened on that day."

"Wow" Lapis said.

And that is why it is so important to keep the candle safe" Santa said.

"I will do it, I will keep the candle hidden" Lapis stated.

Lapis traveled all over the world with a special bracelet that Santa gave her. Lapis hid the candle under an abandoned farm. Witchwhirl will never get it now.

The End

The Lovely Frog and Handsome Turtle: A Christmas Miracle

By Aria Green



The last time you saw the Lovely Frog, Handsome Turtle, Lovely Turtle, and Handsome Frog was about 3 months ago. And now it's Christmas Eve, how wonderful! The Lovely Frog is at the pet shop, I wonder why. Oh, that's right! The Lovely Frog is buying Christmas presents for the children and Handsome Turtle! So, The

Lovely Frog went to the stuffed toy aisle, and got a turtle and elephant for the children. They had a tag on it and the elephant was "Elena" and the turtle's name was "Izzie".

After that, Lovely Frog went to the coffee mug aisle and got a Christmas mug for the Handsome Turtle. When she got home, she went straight to work by wrapping everything up in paper. But oh no! The Big Bad Wolf was looking through the window. He said to himself, "This makes me sick, I should destroy everything TONIGHT!"

When everyone fell asleep, he went inside the house through a broken window. He destroyed all the presents and even the tree and ornaments with his sharp and scary claws! Then on Christmas morning, the children went downstairs early, they ran upstairs crying. Lovely Frog knew what was up. They were all so confused and sad. But, there was still time to fix this.

The Lovely Frog had run to get a book of miracles and read until it said how to turn broken toys into new toys.

When she found it, she started chanting "Rib, Ribb, Ribbit" constantly until the presents started to float in the air. One minute later, the presents came back to life and all the Christmas Joy was here to save their Christmas. After they opened them, The children came running up the snow hill and it started snowing! On that very hill, they made snow angels and had hot cocoa on the hill in the moonlight bliss.

Snow

By Carilene Sliwa

Twirling in the air, a pretty sight
Catching Snowflakes on your tongue
Snowballs are being flung
Snow is floating all around
A cold white coat on the ground
Evergreens covered in snow
The cold breeze begins to blow
The Snow shimmers so bright





Merry Christmas!

Our Moody Lake



Our Fun Kids



Red Light Green Light



North County Culture

on the new Playground!



And Happy New Year!

