

Christmas Concert

by Winta K.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The Christmas program for this year was held on December 9th and it was a concert to remember! Preschool- 3rd grade classes performed first. The 4th-8th grade followed up the first performance, and they did a phenomenal job. Even our 5th grade homeroom teacher, Mrs. Maxfield, had something to say about the performance, "The preschoolers were so adorable. They sang their hearts out and it was beautiful! It's wonderful to hear little voices sing about Jesus. It was a blessing to hear the older students. Not only did they sing amazingly, but the band was a great addition to the entire program. I am very thankful for Mr. Maichel and Mrs. Porath and their ability to encourage students in their music skills."

Not only did the teachers think it was fantastic, the music director, Mr. Maichel, himself was impressed, "I think the hard work and effort all of the students put in this concert was displayed wonderfully, and I'm very happy to have been able to work with this bunch of kids!"



Kindergarten and first grade students were just one of the groups who joined their voices together to sing about Christmas.

Jesus is Born *By Rahel D.*

Since Christmas is just around the corner, the faith section will of course be about the birth of Christ. This miraculous story comes from Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-21. It all started when the angel Gabriel came to a humble woman named Mary and told her that she would have a son who will save the world from sin. Mary and her husband Joseph had to go to Joseph's hometown, Bethlehem, around the time the baby would be born. Since the town was

crowded, there was no place for them to stay, so they had to sleep in a barn. Glistening, wrapped in swaddling cloth, the innocent baby Jesus was finally born in a manger. From afar, shepherds came to see the baby, as well as three wise men. The three wise men also came with gifts. They gave Mary and Joseph gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Even though the idea of presents, food, and Santa Claus is fun, we often times get blinded by these things and forget the true meaning of Christ-

mas. So as we are opening our gifts by the Christmas tree, we should remember that the best gift of all is our Savior, Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas!



Preschool News

by Mya B.

This month the preschoolers in Mrs. Maxfield's class have learned about the kinds of laborious and tremendous work that animals do in order to get ready for winter. The preschoolers pretended to hibernate and built dens. Gingerbread, a delicious treat, is something the preschoolers experimented a lot with this December. They made the classic gingerbread man with playdoh, and even made real gingerbread, scrumptious and filled with holiday spirit. Hunting and spying, the preschoolers searched vigorously for the gingerbread boy on their anticipative gingerbread boy hunt.

The preschoolers celebrated the final week of December by celebrating Christmas, and most importantly, Jesus. The preschoolers in Miss O'Toole's classroom have also been doing things with gingerbread, like learning about it and even making adorable gingerbread houses! A lot of people this holiday season seem to have forgotten about the true meaning of Christmas. Luckily, in Mrs. Maxfield's and Miss O'Toole's classrooms, we can rest easy knowing that the preschoolers love hearing the story of Jesus' birth. In conclusion, the preschoolers have had a very special month, making cherished memories and doing a bundle of activities.



Mikey from Mrs. Maxfield's class has made a gingerbread man.

SPORTS

Boys Basketball

by Jaylee S.

This month, excited Coach Dehn shared, "The boys improved on being aware and recognizing what the defense is giving them and altering their plan of attack, which allowed them to score more easy baskets." Interviewing some 8th grade boys, I acquired some inside information about their basketball practices.

Ezekiel S. and Jose G. explained, "Our favorite part of practice is the intense scrimmages and shooting drills." The boys had a nail-biting basketball game against Child of God. At the end of the game, it was tied 18-18; they went into overtime. When overtime was over, it was still tied, but it was 20-20. The game went into double overtime with the anxious Cougars using all of their strength to continue fighting. The final score was 22-21. They won a well-deserved victory. I asked 8th grader Sujan B. what they could have done better in the game and he explained, "We needed to work on getting open faster and shooting the ball at the right time." The boys can use the momentum of this first win to propel themselves into further victories.

Girls Basketball

by Hawa S.

The year of 2018 is almost over and the basketball season has been very surprising. In December, the girls had quite a few games and spectacular victories. The Lady Cougars had a tournament at Salem and it was the best highlight of December. The first game of the tournament was against Salem. The girls lost 12-24 and were set to play Friday for the consolation trophy. On that Friday, they played CCLS and they won! Since they won that game, they qualified to play for the 1st place consolation trophy. They were all very excited, but what was bad was that it was at 9:00am. But that didn't stop them from winning that trophy. Saturday arrived, and they were going to play St. Mark's CYC, a school they've never played. Everyone was nervous and excited to play for the trophy. The teams took turns taking the lead throughout the game. It was not until the last quarter, everyone was on their toes, hoping to see who would take the victory. About 6 seconds were left and the other team had to make 2 free throws. Word of Life was at 23 points and St Mark's at 20. The girl on the other team missed the first shot, but made the second. They now had 21 points. The game was about to end, and #2, 7th grader Elga K. held the ball until the buzzer went off. The Lady Cougars won 1st place consolation! Everyone was excited and couldn't contain the joyful feeling of winning a trophy.

Weeks went by and the team had a shootout at Lutheran South with other Lutheran schools. The girls' game was the last game of the day, and they played Victory Christian. They were on fire and just couldn't be stopped. The game was over and the Cougars won 36-20. December has been a very good month for the Lady Cougars.



8th graders, Ezekiel and Sujan, play defense on their home court.

Celebrity Look-Alikes

by Janet P.

Merry Christmas! This is the last celebrity look-alike before we start the new year, 2019. For this month's celebrity look-alikes we will start with Pastor Clark and former head coach of the STL Blues, Mike Yeo. Mike Yeo and Pastor Clark are alike by their facial expression and their smile.



Peighton, 4th Grader



Sabrina Carpenter, Actress

For our second celebrity look-alike we have 4th grader, Peighton, and Sabrina Carpenter. Sabrina is a singer-songwriter and an actress. She starred on *Girl Meets World*, *The Hate You Give*, and *Sofia the First*. Sabrina and Peighton are alike by their smile and their hair texture. is



Pastor Clark

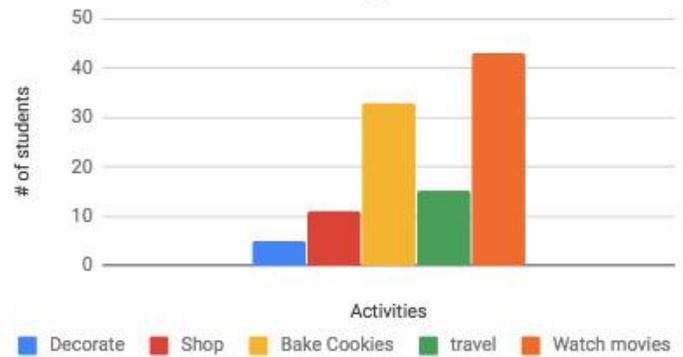


Mike Yeo, Former Blues Coach

Favorite Christmas Break Activity by Elga K.

What do you like to do over Christmas break? Well, I asked the K-8th graders what they like to do over Christmas break. Shopping and traveling were 2 activities that many students enjoy. They both had really close votes, but traveling won by 3 votes. To sum it up, most of the students enjoy watching movies over Christmas break. I hope you have an amazing Christmas break. Merry Christmas!

Favorite Christmas Activity



Restaurant Review: by Will M.



The amazing restaurant that I would recommend for the month of December is Imo's Pizza! They have classic St. Louis style pizza that is superb. They use thin crust and delicious provol cheese, which in my opinion is the best kind of pizza. They have locations all over St. Louis, so you will probably be able to find one near your home. I really like the cheese pizza because they always put extra melty, delectable cheese on it. I would highly recommend this restaurant to anyone looking for a place to eat after playing out in the snow during Christmas Break. I rate it 5 out of 5 stars!

Movie Review by Nabeyet G. and Jack J.

We all know the classic story of The Grinch. This year they came out with a new version! *The Grinch* is about a creature who doesn't enjoy the Christmas spirit. He and his dog live on a dull mountain called Mount Crumpet. Under them is a village called Whoville. The Whoville people adore the Christmas season! The Christmas season brings joyful excitement to Whoville. On the other hand, The Grinch doesn't adore all the sound and joy Whoville has. So, The Grinch dresses up as Santa and steals gifts from Whoville. That's the only way he can get peace and quiet. This movie came out on November 9th. I recommend this movie for everyone!



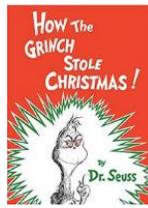
In this astonishing motion picture, *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*, Newt Scamander and Tina Goldstein, with the help of many others, attempt to thwart Grindelwald's plan to raise an army of wizards to rule the world. With Eddie Redmayne as Newt Scamander, Johnny Depp as Grindelwald, and Katherine Waterston as Tina Goldstein, they are sent on an epic quest to resolve the conflict. Jacob and Credence are back and better than ever, and both play a monumental part in the film. Sent by Dumbledore, Newt goes from London to Paris. There are lots of ups and downs but NO SPOILERS. I give this movie a 10 out of 10 for being a model movie. It's great graphics, wholesome story, and awesome acting gets it the title of our first 10 out of 10.



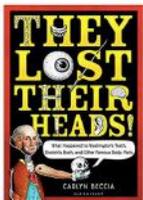
Book Review

by Sam C. and Will M.

Christmas is almost here! Church bells ring and snowflakes cover the ground. And what's better than sitting down in front of the fireplace with a cup of hot cocoa and a good book? So let's dive right in! This month's primary book review is an original, and we all know this one, *How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* This book is a wonderful Christmas book for any age. The Grinch wants nothing to do with Christmas and wishes to stop it from coming. Oh, how he dreads the noise, noise, noise, noise! The booming and banging, the trains and the trumpets, how he wants the noise to go! So, he makes a plan and hopes to take away all of the joy and laughter on Christmas. But there's more to Christmas than presents and stockings and good 'ol Saint Nick. What might he do? Why does the Grinch think Christmas is so bad? Well, no one knows quite why. Can Christmas be saved? And is the Grinch going to stick to his wretched, evil plans, or will he end up realizing the true meaning of this holiday?



One of the best gifts that you can ever want for Christmas is a book, and they're pretty affordable too. The book that I would recommend to middle schoolers looking for a gift idea is *They Lost Their Heads*, by Carlyn Beccia. You may remember this amazing book from when we had the Scholastic Book Fair in October. It is about famous people who had something crazy and strange happen to their body parts after they died, and even before they died. One of the more well known stories is the gross account of Washington's false teeth. You may have known he had dentures, but did you know that they were made from a combination of his old teeth, his horse's teeth, and slaves that he paid to use their teeth!? That's disgusting! I would recommend this book to any 6th-8th graders who don't get grossed out by gory details! I really love this book and give it 5 out of 5 stars.



Video Game Review: Fortnite 7

by Jack J.

Fortnite Season 7 has brought everything from planes to Santa, Camos to Christmas, and that's just the beginning! Part of the map has been covered with snow, and numerous new locations have been added! Cramming the southwest of the map, Frosty Flights, Polar Peak, and Happy Hamlet are newly added, only replacing offbeat Flush Factory. The snow stretches across the map from Snooby Shores and Tilted Towers. It also went all the way down to Lucky Landing and engulfs all the new locations and well over a quarter of the map. Many items have been vaulted, or removed, including Clingers, Shadow Stones, and the dreaded Double Barrel Shotgun. The planes can hold 5 players with 1 pilot and 4 passengers who are positioned on the wings and rudder (the plane is actually a biplane). The battle pass for this season includes Christmas-themed skins, modern emotes, or dances, additional pets, as well as a skiing and Durrburger skin. I give this season a 10 out of 10 for entirely unique locations and vehicles, a multitude of new tweaks, and a change that makes the whole map overflowed with Christmas lights.



Cougar Contest by Bella B.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Cougars! For this chilling winter, we will be decorating our own ornaments! Ornaments are shiny, and beautiful! Please make sure to make your ornaments out of paper, and not glass. Decorate them however you want, with whatever you want to make them absolutely radiant. Please have your ornaments in by January 16th, and stay safe on your spectacular Christmas Break!

Decorations for Christmas: Traditions Unfolded *by Bella B.*

The only time that it's normal to have a tree in your house and lights strung across the top of your house is of course, Christmas, but why? How did it become normal? Well I am here to unfold the timeline of Christmas, and pick apart the traditions that have become the new normal.

The Christmas Tree

The Evergreen's name fits it perfectly, as the lovely tree that is used for Christmas trees stays green all year 'round! In blistering heat, it keeps its head and branches up. In eternal bone-chilling snow and hail, it stands tall and indestructible. The Romans and Egyptians would decorate their homes with green leaves to celebrate life winning over death and to celebrate their waiting and hope that their crops would become green again in the spring.

The Ornament

Ornaments are a classic part of Christmas, and you probably have a tub of them somewhere in your house. You anticipate hanging these little colorful decorations on your tree each year, but how did they become part of our Christmas tradition? Well, for this you would have to go way back to the 1600s where people would hang apples on their trees to represent the apple that Adam and Eve ate in the garden. This evolved into paper decorations, pastries, and even candles! Legend has it that Martin Luther got inspired by seeing stars twinkling above an evergreen tree, and decided to hang candles on his tree. Fast forward a century



to find a poor glassblower, who didn't even have a penny to spend on an apple. He decided to put his skills to use and make his own glass apple, which became the first glass ornament. In the 1800s, royalty like Queen Victoria got wind of this trend and liked the idea. They made decorating trees popular and fashionable. Soon, countless stores all across the globe were selling trees and ornaments, especially during World War II, and they haven't stopped even today.

The Wreath

Wreaths are the icing on the cake when it comes to decorating at any time, especially around Christmas! Where did these beautiful rings of colorful leaves originate though? There are two main thoughts about where they came from. The first dates way back to the ancient Romans. They wore them around their heads as head-dresses! They were usually made out of Laurel branches, and represented people's jobs, wealth, and class. The second theory is that believers 1,000 years before Jesus' birth made early forms of what we now know as advent wreaths. They represented life sustaining through the harsh winter. The circular shape represented eternal life. Both schools of thought essentially lead up to today, where Christians and other religions alike use wreaths. Christians today still have similar beliefs as Christians long ago when it comes to the wreath. We all can agree that the wreath is meaningful and that it makes our Christmas a little bit merrier.

Melted Ice Cream Hot Chocolate

by Hawa S.

Ho Ho Ho!!! Merry Christmas! It's the last month before 2019 and so the new recipe is absolutely perfect for the holidays. Hang your stockings and grab your candy canes, because the recipe for December is Melted Ice Cream Hot Chocolate! It's creamy, it's flavorful, and makes the perfect winter treat. So what are you waiting for? You can find this mouth-watering recipe at www.foodandwine.com Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups whole milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- Flaky sea salt
- 1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 pint vanilla ice cream
- Large or small marshmallows, for serving (optional)

DIRECTIONS

In a medium saucepan, combine the milk with the sugar and a pinch of salt and cook over moderate heat, whisking, until the sugar dissolves, about 3 minutes. Whisk in the cocoa powder until incorporated. Add the ice cream and cook over moderate heat, whisking, until smooth and hot, for about 3 minutes. Ladle the chocolate into mugs and garnish with marshmallows, if desired, and flaky sea salt.



Birthdays

Winta K. 12/1
Reed S. 12/2
Emma P. 12/4
Brooke K. 12/5
Ike C. 12/7
Tessa B. 12/8
Amira D. 12/11
Kaydee T. 12/12
Caroline M. 12/13
Anna C. 12/15
Jack J. 12/17
Hunter D. 12/19
Jeanine D. 12/21
Ralph M. 12/21
Nabeyet G. 12/26
Amelia Y. 12/30
Zahnaye J. 12/31

Comic by Sam C.



Baptismal Birthdays

Winta K. 12/1
Michael W. 12/3
Carter W. 12/4
Robbie M 12/10
John H. 12/16
Sophia J. 12/16
Cain B. 12/17
Zahnaye J. 12/23
Christin J. 12/23

Hunter M. 12/23
James M. 12/27
Will M. 12/28
Louie W. 12/29
Lilly W. 12/29
Sara D. 12/30

Kids' Page by Mya B.

Word Scramble

1. wntire _____
2. wnos _____
3. aococ _____
4. ittenm _____
5. jsuse _____
6. ookiec _____
7. fmaliy _____
8. dayholi _____
9. persnets _____
10. yoj _____

