



Students Amber Lohnes, Whitman Constantineau, Kyle Brown, Bitsy Skerry, Brynn Grambow, Emily Stikeman and Alexis Bolduc don Renaissance attire as part of their roles in the Madrigal Dinner last Friday.

Madrigal Mystery Tour

By Hope Aubrey

On Friday, December 13th the Timberlane cafeteria was transformed into a magical madrigal event. A group of 250 students, teachers and community members were taken back into the Renaissance time period for this event. The night was filled with authentic looking costumes, food and a lot of laughter.

The night began with the jester, Mr. Eric Constantineau, introducing the royal court. King Oliver, Mr. Scott Strainge, was then entertained by many acts throughout the two part night. The acts featured Timberlane students and their musical and acting abilities. This included a recorder group, a vocal group, a string quintet and a guitar ensemble, along with many different obscure fairy tales and even a 15 minute version of Hamlet to close out the night.

The production involved more than 35 students and eight teachers, some as performers and some as members of the king's court.

When Mr. Strainge was asked to share his favorite part of the night, from the king's perspective, he stated, **"I really liked improvising with Mr. Constantineau, but the real stars of the night, as it always should be, were our amazingly talented students."**

Previously, Timberlane has held madrigal dinners similar to this event. In the past few years, there has been a Holiday Show that students put on in place of this night, however, many of the teachers got together and decided to bring the madrigal event back. Next year, there is a plan to make this event even bigger and better, involving more community members.

Everyone participating in the night had nothing but nice comments for those involved, and the students really seemed to enjoy themselves. Community members commented on the beautiful costumes worn by the participants. An enjoyable and memorable night for many, next year's dinner promises to be even better!

A Night Under The Stars

By Kayla Doherty

Saturday, December 7th, was a night under the stars for the Junior class. This special day was known as Timberlane's annual Junior Semi.

The theme, Starry Night, lit up the event that took place in the high school cafeteria. Tickets were sold at \$80 for a couple or \$45 for an individual ticket.

Both girls' and boys' excitement was in the air as the dance approached. If you were not at this extraordinary event, the Junior class did a great job decorating and throwing a memorable night for all of those who attended the dance. Decorations filled the cafeteria creating a whole new atmosphere in the school. Stars fell from the ceilings and sheets of black covered the walls with white lights that lit up the room. Exec spent days in preparation for the formal, when we did not have school Exec spent hours decorating. Also giving up their Friday night, Exec drew gorgeous paintings on the walls, set up lights, put black fabric along the walls, tied stars to the ceilings, and threw up lights all around the café.

Even when the formal was going on, Exec spent their Saturday night making sure everything went perfect. They greeted people at the door, organized the event, took jackets and purses into a classroom, and also served snacks and drinks to those who had attended. This year's Exec Committee made the Junior Formal a successful night in many different ways. Making sure decorations looked perfect, that everyone was happy, had phenomenal music, served great food, and organized the event perfectly.



Junior Courtney Barlow, when asked about her thoughts on Semi, stated, **"It was a beautiful night. Everyone did such a great job with making the event such a success."** Barlow later said, **"It was the most fun I have had in a while."**

Junior Shayla Miller agreed with Barlow's thoughts on Semi also, "It really wasn't anything I expected. I just had a great time all night with all my friends!"

As the day arrived, everything seemed to fall into place. All the hard work in preparation for the dance had finally paid off. Everyone arrived looking their absolute best as the night was one to remember. With great decorations and music, the junior class threw a memorable and exciting night for everyone who got to experience it.

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A Day with the Fishies

By Pat Tighe

On December 13th, Mr. Sean Peters' and Ms. Erica Gregson's Oceanography and Marine Biology classes went on a field trip to the New England Aquarium. This field trip was both educational and enjoyable for the students involved.

The aquarium, for those who are not familiar, is located in Boston, Massachusetts right on the edge of the Boston Harbor. Opened on June 20, 1969 this facility has been providing information on marine life along with hundreds of different species to view up close and personal.

The centerpiece of the New England Aquarium is a four story salt water fish tank housing over 2000 marine animals. This newly renovated tank is now full of newly designed coral and other aquatic plants. This \$17.3 million renovation was completed on July 1st and the outcome is magnificent. The students were able to recognize many of the aquatic species and learn more about them as the day progressed.



"This was a pretty neat field trip, also it was very informative," says Mike Strout, a student who took part in this field trip. Another new exhibit, which was a favorite amongst students, was the Trust Family Foundation Shark and Ray Touch Tank. This was a shallow tank full of different animals including cownose rays, Atlantic rays and epaulette sharks.

Overall this field trip was an ideal experience for all involved. With flawless participation by the students, they were able to learn countless amounts of new information along with strengthening their knowledge of the animals and habitats themselves, all while having a tremendous amount of fun.

Gregson said, "This field trip was a lot of work, but in the end it was worth it. This was not just a day out of school; it was a new experience for students to learn hands-on information about marine life."

This field trip is one that should be taken by marine biology and oceanography for many years to come.

Following in their Footsteps

By Colby McCay

The next greatest teacher could be sitting across from you.

This year, eleven students had the opportunity to shadow any teacher in the school district as a part of an assignment in their Exploring Teaching course. This course, led by Susan Takesian, has given students an opportunity who wish to pursue education, the experience to help teach a class and get a new perspective from the teacher. By shadowing a teacher students get to apply the knowledge they learned in class and gain a firsthand experience teaching.

Several students had the experience of shadowing a teacher, while also learning many new techniques and skills. Senior Casey Matthews has always had a passion for teaching kids, "I really enjoyed teaching, but it was a lot harder than I anticipated." Matthews had a chance to shadow a kindergarten teacher at Pollard.

"I don't know if I'm quite cut out for kindergarten but I would definitely like to do younger kids."

After Matthews started she realized that teaching wasn't as easy as it may seem, "No matter what age, class or other circumstances, teaching is ten times harder than it looks!"

Another senior, Alex LeBlanc, has also taken the chance to find out what interests her. LeBlanc shadowed a first grade teacher at Atkinson Academy and really loved being in the elementary setting, "I loved teaching, I would like to stay in the elementary education and cannot wait to continue studying it."

Students often don't know what they are walking into when they shadow a teacher, so when they finally get the practice of teaching students, they acquire a lot of new skills. "I learned more about the fundamentals of teaching," said LeBlanc.

Matthews gained different skills from shadowing a younger age, "Definitely behavior management and what works to keep five year olds under control and focused so they can learn more efficiently."

Next fall, Matthews plans to attend college to study early childhood education. As well as Matthews, LeBlanc has decided on attending college to study education too. We wish them both the best of luck in discovering their tricks to being a teacher.

At the end of this whole process, the student's goals are to be able to teach a 30-minute lesson to the class. Next semester, the student's will take Practicing Teaching where they will have to complete 30 hours as an intern. These interns consist of helping the teacher of their choice conduct the class and be a leader in the classroom as well as prepare work and lessons," Students get to apply the knowledge they learned in class and get a teacher perspective" Takiesan said about the students shadowing.

This process is not easy for students, but it's an interesting opportunity that many kids wish they could take in high school before they graduate to see if they want to become a teacher. Many of the students appreciate the experience they had and hope to pursue education in the future.

Students Sell Lanyards for Good Cause

By Colby McCay

People are always looking for a new piece of fashion to display to their friends and lanyards are a trendy products and always in demand. Lanyards aren't just a place for your keys anymore; lanyards are a statement of style. It may be tricky to find a good Christmas gift for someone, but I have found your answer: these lanyards are perfect and inexpensive and also helps out a charitable cause.

This year the Intro to Business class, led by Mr. Corey Laird, is selling quality lanyards. These lanyards are fashionable and slick. The design of the lanyard is very simple. The school colors, maroon and white, are the only two colors on the lanyard. Timberlane Regional High School appears in white lettering to contrast the maroon background. The class has made a friendly competition out of selling the lanyards. Whichever group sells the most will get a small prize, to be determined later. They though are not trying to make money for themselves. As a class, all of the students decided that the profits they make from selling the lanyards will be donated towards Mealey's Meals. This is a great way to help out families in need for the holidays, so let's thank them for their efforts and donations.

Senior Brian Mills helped produce this ingenious product, "we had to design our own products and learn how to market them. Marketing our own products teaches us how to be entrepreneurs ourselves."

Producing and marketing an idea for your business is very important and for students to be getting a jump start during high school is helpful for their future. This simple product has helped students learn more about managing their own business and it also helped out a local cause.

The New Year is approaching and you can change up your style with this trendy purchase, so buy a lanyard today and not only get a fashionable lanyard, but also help out a good cause.

Going Back In Time In The Mills of Lawrence

By Alex LeBlanc

Learning about immigrants in a classroom can be dull and boring, but what if you got to actually experience what it would be like? Actually being able to experience and see how the immigrants of Lawrence, MA lived around the year 1900. On December 6th, a group of 30 students were able to do so.

Mrs. Meaghan Guanci stated, "Mr. [James] Kelly and I took our American Studies class to help further enhance their knowledge about immigration and industry circa 1900." Not only did the group of thirty students attend, but so did administrator, Mr. Brian O'Connell.

The group of American Studies students visited the Great Dam, where they were educated about how the canal systems of Lawrence worked to power the factories. According to Maurice B. Dorgan, the Great Dam was known as the "greatest contributing factor in developing Lawrence as one of the leading manufacturing cities of the country."

Next, they visited St. Patrick's Parish where Irish Catholic immigrants went to church on their only off from their 6 day work week. The church is still open to Roman Catholics and has connection with St. Patrick Elementary School and Lawrence Catholic Academy. Today, the parish offers tri-lingual services every week in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

After visiting the cathedral, the group went to The Friends of Lawrence Heritage State Park. One aspect that Guanci especially enjoyed was "an exhibit of artwork on the Bread and Roses strike; this is an event that happens once every 27 years! We were very fortunate to be able to see this." The opportunity was to see an exhibit full of the Paintings of Lawrence and the Bread and Roses Strike Ralph Fasanella.

The Bread and Roses strike was a period of time when factories would cut their workers' hours down from over 50-hour work weeks, as well as cut their pay in half. The paintings by Ralph Fasanella depicted mill machinery as symbolism of the strike.

Their final stop of their trip through Lawrence was to visit an actual factory. The students were able to see some of the terrible working conditions in which people worked. The tight space and number of machines in the large factory surprised the entire group.

According to junior Samantha Coryea, her favorite part of the field trip was "going to Tripoli's and getting pizza," but her favorite educational portion of the trip was being able to see the old mill in order to see the working conditions.

The field trip experience was a great success and all the students were able to enjoy a little bit of culture of Lawrence. Everyone was able to face a little bit of local history and learn more about American culture in the early 1900s.

Source: "Greatstonedam." Greatstonedam. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Dec. 2013. <<http://lawrence.essexcountyma.net/lawrence-dam2.html>>.



Obamacare

By Mike Foster

Over the past few months, nothing has flooded the news more than the Affordable Healthcare Act, also known as Obamacare.

Throughout its short history, it has been blasted by conservatives while being supported by liberals. The program's early failures fed into the counterfire and not one shortcoming was more reported than the unsuccessful website. It was dysfunctional when finally opened and gave many people a hard time while trying to apply. The original goal to reach 400,000 enrollees was far from reached. Obamacare has made the president's approval rating plummet. Many polls done by the Associated Press show that almost half of Americans with job-based healthcare plans are blaming the Affordable Healthcare Act for their changing policies in the next year.

A poll done by Quinnipiac University stated that 38% of Americans approve of Obama and 58% disapprove. All of these events have made even Democratic congressmen try to distance themselves from President Obama in attempt to improve their likelihood of being reelected.

However, Obamacare has set new goals and has restructured, adding in a grandfather clause that allows people who already had coverage they like to keep it. It looks as though the Affordable Healthcare Act has gotten back on its feet. Obamacare is coming ever closer to the Associated Press reports that over 476,000 citizens have signed up. This is definitely something to keep an eye on throughout the next couple of years.



NASA, We Have a Problem

By Liam Lundt

That's one small step for man, one large step for China. There once was a time when the United States shocked the world by sending men into space. In 1968 The United States



launched Apollo 7 which brought astronauts into Earth's lower orbit. A year later Apollo 11 was launched which successfully carried the first human beings to the moon where they landed in the history books. During those trips the world watched in awe and inspiration as American astronauts orbited the planet and walked on the moon. The National Aeronautics and Space Association, or NASA, used to be a point of pride for both the American government and the American people. Unfortunately those days are long gone. With an insurmountable amount of debt, the United States terminated its space program with the final launch of Atlantis on July 8, 2011.

Since then the United States has only been able to send space craft up into space through the Russian space program. But while the United States and Russia have cut back heavily on space exploration other countries such as China and India have set their sights on space.

In April of 1970, China launched its first satellite that orbited for 26 days and broadcasted the communist song "The East is Red". In November of 1975 it launched its first sensory satellite which was then successfully recovered three days later. Further down the road in October of 2003, China put its first man into space which made it the third country to do so behind the Soviet Union and the United States. In September of 2008 one of its astronauts on board the spacecraft performed the "spacewalk" which was the first time that was ever accomplished by that country.

While reading their accomplishments you may be thinking "so what?" America did all these things years ago and did most of them first! However, the fact that China is still advancing while America

has stopped is a big deal.

Throughout the past three years, China has successfully docked a manned and unmanned spacecraft to its space station several times. It announced that it intends to continue advancing its lunar program and that it is sending missions up in the near future, where astronauts will live for several days in the space station and eventually land on the moon.

While some people look at these advancements and say "Good for China", I say "Where is NASA?"

I am deeply saddened by America's loss of drive in space exploration. Who was once the front runner has now taken a seat on the sidelines. Has NASA crashed and burned? Or is it just refueling for its continued exploration of the mysteries of space!

Nelson Mandela: Celebrating the Life of a Legend

By Cara Olson

On the 5th of December, beloved political figure Nelson Mandela passed away at the age of 95. Mandela had been suffering from a respiratory infection for a while before his death. He died a peaceful death at his home in Johannesburg, South Africa. He was surrounded by family at the time of his passing. The world is celebrating the life of such an inspirational icon.

One of Mandela's major legacies is his 27-year imprisonment from 1963 to 1990. His role as an activist against the issue of apartheid caused him to be arrested for sabotage and subsequently sentenced to life in prison. During his time in prison, Nelson Mandela remained an icon for the progression of equal rights in South Africa.

In February of 1990, it was a huge event when Nelson Mandela was released from prison. He was greeted by crowds of many people who were awaiting his freedom. Soon after his release, Mandela began negotiations with politicians in his country to end apartheid. These negotiations took a few years, but Mandela received the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in 1993.

Nelson Mandela was the first democratically elected president of his home country of South Africa. He served as president from 1994 to 1999. Mandela was outspoken in protests and other events against apartheid.

Nelson Mandela continued to make public appearances as an activist for many different causes until 2004. Mandela wrote a book, titled *Conversations With Myself*, that was released in 2010. The book includes many different fascinating artifacts from Mandela's life, from letters he wrote during his imprisonment to journals he wrote while he was on the run from the law in the early 1960s. People around the world loved the book for its exclusive look into Nelson's life.

In 2011, Nelson Mandela's health issues began when he spent time in the hospital for a respiratory infection. He continued to be hospitalized from more respiratory problems until he passed away on December 5th.

The world will surely remember Nelson Mandela as a man with a strong voice that was heard by people from all different walks of life. Current South Africa President Jacob Zuma said of Mandela in an interview with the Associated Press, "It is the end of 95 glorious years, of a freedom fighter, a dedicated and humble servant of the people of South Africa. Fountain of wisdom, a pillar of strength, and a beacon of hope for all those fighting for a just and equitable world order."

Mandela's impact will continue to instill a voice in those who care about an issue in their countries.



Beard of the Month

By Andrea Ahearn

He's handsome, he's scruffy and he reps his Nike kicks while living life on the wild side. The famous Beard of the Month title has recently been passed down from Matt Plante to another fellow soccer player, AJ DeMichele.

DeMichele is a senior here at Timberlane and has been known to grow a mean beard in his spare time. For the past four years, DeMichele has played soccer as a Timberlane Owl. Each season, he has grown out his beard as the team ventured on to win games leading them into the playoffs.

Some may ask how one can grow such an immaculate beard and DeMichele has the answers for you! "People may fear the beard, but the scruff can easily be tamed with a little TLC," said DeMichele. When asked why he grows the beard, he smiled and said, "It all comes from pure laziness to actually shave it."

To take care of the "beast" growing on his face, DeMichele makes sure to shampoo and condition this fine creature of a beard each morning. With the winter season quickly approaching, "It's cold without the warm, fuzzy coating spread across [his] chin."



Smile of the Month

Julia Bidgood

You may have noticed Molly Wilmot's beaming smile on the sidelines of our Friday night football games. Or maybe, you have caught a glimpse of it watching one of the cheer teams' pep rally performances.



This varsity cheerleader never leaves her smile on the mat and is known for the bright, glowing smile she carries with her day in and day out. Wilmot is a sophomore here at Timberlane where she is both a varsity cheerleader and lacrosse player. In her spare time, you'll find Wilmot spending time with her friends and family.

Due to her flawless smile, many would assume that it took her years of hard work and dedication to achieve what she has. However, that is not the case. When asked about her dental hygiene, she responded "I just brush my teeth and floss, nothing out of the ordinary!" Wilmot had braces for only one year before they were taken off to unveil her gorgeous pearly whites.

Wilmot's smile is sure to light up the hallway as you walk by. When you see her in the hall, make sure to compliment her on her award winning smile. Thank you, Molly, for making Timberlane a happier place!

Flow of the Month

By Nora Magliocchetti

Junior stand out, Toby Espisito, claims the title of "Flow of the Month" for the month of December.

Toby Espisito is one of our more unique winners because not only has he been awarded "Flow of the Month", but also has previously won "Beard of the Month" for the month of October. When Toby Espisito found out the exciting news, he expressed his happiness by saying, "This is one of my most proud moments, and this is an honor."

Toby Espisito has spent the last year and a half growing his impeccable flow, but he assures us it was not easy. There is a great amount of effort that goes into Toby's morning routine. "I shower in the morning like most people, but it actually takes about ten minutes to get my hair wet enough to shampoo. Next I use Head and Shoulders shampoo and scrub for about a minute."

The sentimental value of Toby's hair is definitely evident. He describes how his hair is a part of him and if, for some reason, he had to shave and or cut it, there would be a part of him missing. Congratulations Toby! Keep up the good work!



A Day in the Life of Austin House

By Hannah Burt

Not only is he the Vice President of the Senior Class, but he won the King of Spirit Week and class clown in the year of 2013. The intriguing and comical man approaches every situation in a joyful way, and boosts the attitudes of everyone around him. In his free time Austin enjoys the little things; he likes to have a nice cup of tea or throw down on his favorite song, "Funkytown", and dance like no one is watching. In fact he stated "I would say wrestling strangers is my favorite hobby!" As you can see House is a very well-rounded person and enjoys participating in a diverse array of activities.



House has a large musical pallet and he could never pick a solid genre as his favorite. House admits that one of his favorites would have to be electronic. However, House has recently discovered many new artists coming out of the east coast like, RIP Big and #YUNG. House has also incorporated #YUNG into multiple photos of himself; they are quite glorious if you ever have a chance to take a look.

Because a best friend has to be a human and he cannot choose his dog, House says that his best friend would have to be "his homie" Julia Bidgood. The two get along with their easy going and relaxed personalities. Fun is never a conflict with these two because they go with the flow in any situation.

Many people tend to ask House what his plans are for the future. House said, "As of right now my plan is to get into Harvard and at some point assume my rightful position as President of the United States. But if that doesn't work out, I could see myself in Plymouth studying history." House also sets very big goals for himself because of his "go big or go home" attitude.

Austin House is the star of the class of 2014. From his hilarious tweets to his cracking of jokes, House brings smiles and laughter to all those who surround him. The young man always carries himself with a smile and big dreams. House broke out of his shell this year when running for vice president and has not stopped achieving his goals since. We all wish the radical gent the best of luck in the future. Also, if you want to join the fun, follow him on Twitter @house_austin.

A Day in the Life of Mr. Woodworth

By Julia Bidgood

Monday through Friday, at approximately 6:30 a.m. Mr. Woodworth says goodbye to his wife, Nancy, as he heads out the door as he makes his way to a job that he loves. Being the Principal of Timberlane Regional High School is no easy task; however, Mr. Woodworth makes it seem effortless.

He goes about his daily routine with a smile on his face and a hop in his step as he roams through the hallways, always trying to make Timberlane a better place. When he first steps into his office, his first task that he must do is check his email. On a "good day," he only has 50 emails to read and respond to while there are some days where he will receive over 100 emails. It is often challenging to coordinate between not only the many staff members here at Timberlane, but also all 1600 students.

He must approve personal days that teachers request, deal with disciplinary cases, and prepare for upcoming meetings. One of the biggest responsibilities of being the principal includes attending and presenting at various meetings. He must attend regular meetings dealing with the school environment, event planning, school budget and disciplinary actions.

Mr. Woodworth is constantly in communication with the other administrators to ensure that everything at Timberlane is running smoothly. They have regular administrator meetings every week where they discuss what is going on around the school, what is going well and what needs some attention. On the average day, he doesn't leave school to go home until 6:30 p.m. or sometimes later.

Regardless of these challenges, Mr. Woodworth looks forward to coming to school each and every day. When asked how Mr. Woodworth felt about his job, he responded with "I have never had trouble getting out of bed and coming to work in the morning." His dedication is evident when you see him not only in the halls during school hours but on the sidelines of sporting events, in the audience of the musicals and plays, and always willing to support the upcoming fundraisers being held by the various clubs and societies here at Timberlane.

Despite the amount of time Mr. Woodworth spends at the school, he makes sure to leave himself some free time to do the things he loves. On the weekends, he likes to play touch football and ice hockey with his friends and three sons, Mike, Dave and Dan. He is often asked to referee wrestling matches in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire and likes to participate in the meets. You may even run into Mr. Woodworth during your workout at the local Planet Fitness with his son, Mike. He frequently attends Timberlane events and banquets to show support for the school. He also enjoys spending time with his wife and their friends. Once home, Mr. Woodworth's ideal night would consist of his wife's Italian cooking, preferably her homemade lasagna. He likes to relax with her as they watch Blacklist, Dancing with the Stars, and Project Runway.

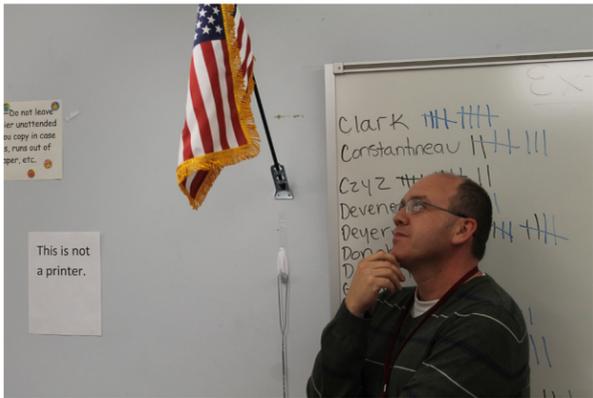
As you can see, being the principal is no easy job. It takes hard work, dedication, and a lot of time. I think I can speak for the entire student body when I say that we appreciate all that Mr. Woodworth does for us and our school. Thank you, Mr. Woodworth, for all your hard work. It surely does not go unnoticed.



What's On Your iPod?

By Brian Mills and Tyler Weir

Music is an art of expression. The songs and artists on an individual's iPod often portray the personality of the listener. This month, we took the liberty of asking our beloved staff the imperative question: What's on your iPod?



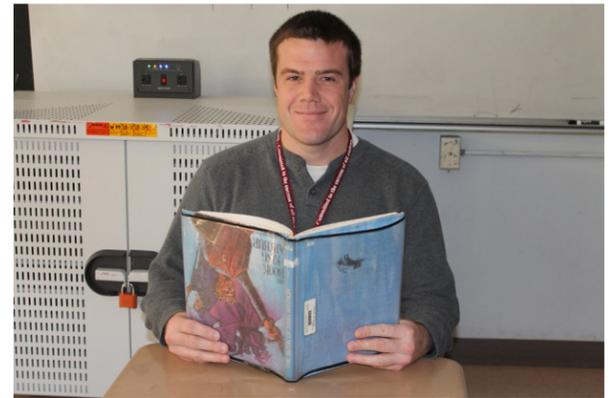
Mr. Jeff Shaw

Favorite Songs: "Carol of Bells"- Trans-Siberian Orchestra, "Nutcracker" – Straight No Chaser, "Can I Interest You in Hanukkah" - Colbert Christmas
Favorite Artist: Trans-Siberian Orchestra
Favorite Genre: Christmas



Mrs. Patty Deyermond

Favorite Songs: "Songbirds" – Paul, "The Riddle" – 5 for Fighting, James Taylor Greatest Hits
Favorite Artist: Adele
Favorite Genre: Pop



Mr. Mike Woodworth Jr.

Favorite Songs: "Don't Think Twice it's Alright" – Bob Dylan, "Rosa Parks" - Outkast, "The Ghost of Tom Joad" – Bruce Springsteen
Favorite Artist: Black Crows
Favorite Genre: Rock and Roll



Mr. Bill Mealey

Favorite Songs: High and Dry - Radiohead, Damaged Soul – Black Sabbath, Walking on the Moon – Police
Favorite Artist: Tool
Favorite Genre: Rock



Mrs. Meaghan Guanci

Favorite Songs: "Don't Stop Believin'" - Journey, "He Got Game" – Public Enemy, "Everybody Dance Now"- C&C Music Factory
Favorite Artist: Too Many to Choose
Favorite Genre: Throwback Jams



Mr. Tim Thomas

No iPod :(
Favorite Artist: None
Favorite Genre: Classic Rock

Looking For A Fifteen-Peat

By Kenny Malcolm

The wrestling season is underway and everybody is anticipating what we hope to be another successful year for Timberlane wrestling.

The Owls are hoping to make it 15 straight state titles with another win this season. They also hope to bounce back in the New England championship after Mount Anthony ended their 5-year streak last year.

Returning starters for the Owls are Sr. Shawn Grenier, Sr. Zach Stewart, Sr. Tyler Fitzpatrick, Sr. Tim McLinden, Jr. Danny Scalzo, and So. Ryan Peters. Four out of the six returning starters will be defending their individual state title from a year ago.

Confident in this year's team, Grenier got straight to the point on what the team hopes to accomplish, "We're going to win states."

Wrestling is not just a sport to many of them, it's a lifestyle. During the off-season, the majority of the team trains hard at Smitty's Wrestling Barn. Wrestling has been very beneficial for some of them in a lot of different ways, and Senior Zach Stewart said, "I never really had many friends until I started wrestling."

Let's hope that the Owls can succeed at making it 15 straight state championships and the best of luck to them all!

Returning to the Ice

By Matt Sarbieski

One of the most exciting times of the year is when the hockey season picks up. It takes a lot of skill to play this sport, and some students have what it takes to be this kind of athlete. These students have been waiting all year to grab their skates and get back on the ice as members of the Timberlane Owls hockey team.

This year, the varsity team will be led by senior Captains Dan Duffy and Brendan Crowley. They will be helped out by senior Assistant Captain Brandan Viens. The head coach of the Owls is Steve Costa, who will be joined by assistant coaches Mark Guerin and Dan Finley. While there is no ice rink in Plaistow, the team practices and plays at the Icenter in Salem, NH.

After a disappointing season last year, the team accumulated only two wins while losing sixteen games. They came up with a goal this season; to make the playoffs. To accomplish that goal, they made plans to improve. "We have to put in a lot of hard work, as well as showing up to play every day and giving it 100%," said Duffy. "It'll be difficult and we will have to work for it, but it can be done."

The team has high ambitions for this season, and they have a lot of confidence. The road to the playoffs will be a long one, but as long as they play their best and work together as a team, they can achieve their goal and be successful.

Their opening game will be against Lebanon High School on December 18, and an upcoming game will be against Oyster River High School on December 21. The time for the two games is 6:20 for the Lebanon High School game and 12:00 for the Oyster River game.

Driving Down the Court

By Aiden Newell and Austin Marshall

Throughout many years the Timberlane Regional High School boys' basketball team has been in a slump. Not just any small slump, but a slump that's been going on for four or more years during the regular season. The program has been in the rebuilding process, but many signs show that this is the year for the Owls. Coming back for his second year, Coach Jeffrey Baumann thinks that this will be the year.

After interviewing a few players on the Brick Squad, UAB commit, senior Zachary Downey, who plans on playing four sports at UAB says that, "I am predicting at least one win which will boost our self-moral." We were curious as to what he wanted out of this season and he said "Hopefully, one win, at least." Since he has just recently committed himself to University of Alabama at Birmingham in Birmingham Alabama, we asked him about it and he said, "I'm playing four sports; best part about it is a paradise."

Timberlane has been craving a win from the varsity basketball team. With TJ, a.k.a. Tommy Johnston, hitting 3 pointers like no other, he will be hopefully sparking the Owls up in order to finally beat the curse that's been holding the Owls back.

Next we interviewed senior Erik Nelson. Nelson has been playing basketball since he was a young kid and is in love with the sport. As a returning varsity player, Nelson is optimistic that the team can compete against some of the other schools with larger basketball programs, "I hope to get at least one win unless something comes up and we lose players." Lastly, we asked Mr. Nelson where he was going to be playing basketball in college and he said, "I'm gladly taking my talents to Nashua Community College, and I'm looking forward to bringing a championship home."

While the Timberlane basketball team is up against a great deal of competition, there is hope in the air for the team to emerge with a win or two this season. The owls need your support and hope to see you out at one of their upcoming games soon!

Swimming into the Season

By Jane Buckley

Things are shaping up well this season for the Timberlane Swim team.

The swim team consists of twenty four people this year including the three captains. All swimmers are at different levels, but all are training to improve. Swimmers range from beginner to expert. The team this year has three senior captains, Caroline Casey, Elise Fredericks, and Jordan Earley.

This is swim teams third official season. The team was started by Caroline Casey, Elise Fredericks, and Jordan Earley. At first it was hard getting it started up, but they recently have had members going to states.

They have not yet had their first meet yet but they have been practicing hard Monday through Friday at Cedardale, in Haverhill, MA. Their first meet is December 13th. Senior captain Caroline Casey said "We have been practicing hard for about an hour a day; the new swimmers have really been improving a lot already!" The swim team has 9 meets this season, and they also have state finals towards the end of their season, they're looking forward to send some of their swimmers into state finals. All swimmers are looking forward to making new friends with their teammates and participating in their first meet!

Carving A New Season

By Ciara Abel

Many people watch skiing at the Olympic level, but did you know that Timberlane has a ski team? The Timberlane Ski Team is growing and becoming more popular every year!

This is a very unique sport because you have to put in your best efforts in order to qualify to compete. The term "practice how you play" definitely applies to this sport because you want to prove that you deserve to participate in the races!

After interviewing Captain Alex LeBlanc, it is clear that the ski team is more than just a group of people skiing "The team gets along so well, we're one big, happy family and I can't wait to see what this season brings.

LeBlanc also says "Our coaches are great! We have three wonderful coaches; Mrs. Darlene Nulk, Mr. Graham Philips and Mrs. Margot Adams. They work really well with our team and with one another."

Currently, ski team practices at the school, and these practices are called "dry land." During the dry land practices, the team works on their speed and increasing their muscle mass. Ski Team will soon be practicing at Pats Peak on Mondays and Wednesdays and they will compete in races on Thursdays or Fridays.

Everyone wants to qualify to race; everyone is going to try their hardest. Captain Chris Robinson says, "I think this season looks promising, we have a lot of people returning from last year. The team is showing that they are determined and will work hard to achieve success and win."

Though ski team has yet to hit the slopes, they are working very hard towards opening the gates to a new season. We wish you the best of luck!

**Owls Super Fans to find out when your teams are playing,
go to wp.timberlane.net/hs and go to the Athletic page
to access team schedules!**

How to Maximize Your Vacation Fun

By Ciara Abel

Winter Vacation is upon us! We have nearly two weeks of vacation, which gives plenty of time to do fun activities with family and friends. This should be a stress-free time and you deserve it.

Visit Boston: Boston is a beautiful place filled with many stores, restaurants and historical places. You could go to Boston for the day and visit the Museum of Science, followed by shopping and finally going out for dinner.

Distance: About 40 miles

Cost: Depends on how much you are willing to spend and what you are willing to do

See a Movie: You and your friends can go to a theater and catch a movie that you have been dying to see! Catching Fire is the sequel to the Hunger Games and I would recommend seeing it because it keeps you on your feet and it captures your attention. You could watch it at the Loop, O'Neil or Showcase Cinemas. After that you could go to Orange Leaf in Andover or Yogurt City in Plaistow for some quality frozen yogurt.

Distance: About 15-20 miles

Cost: \$10-12 and yogurt could range from \$2-10

Have a Sleepover: You could also sleep over your friend's house, or host a sleepover yourself! Pull an all-nighter with your friends and enjoy every moment of it.

Distance: Depends where your friend lives

Cost: Cost of gas

Play in the Snow: Since it is winter, there is snow on the ground. Channel your child-like self and go outside to play in the snow. You could go sledding, build a snowman or make a snow angel.

Distance: 0 miles

Cost: Free

Look at Christmas Lights: If you are trying to save money, you could drive around your town with your friends and look at all of the Christmas lights and decorations! Winter is the most wonderful time of the year; you should be filled with joy!

Distance: 5-15 miles, depends on how far you go

Cost: Cost of gas

Go Shopping: Visit the local Rockingham Mall. Find Santa, sit on his lap and take a picture. Spend some money on yourself while you are there because you deserve it.

Distance: About 11 miles

Cost: Depends on what you purchase

Host a Party: Don't just host any party; make it an ugly sweater party! Who doesn't like ugly sweaters? Invite all of your loved ones and have a lot of fun!

Distance: 0 miles

Cost: Cost of food and drinks

Listen to Music: If you are home alone for a day, blast some Christmas music because Christmas music is good for the soul. It will get you in the spirit, and it's free!

Distance: 0 miles

Cost: Free

Go Skiing: Do you like to ski or snowboard? Then hit the slopes with your friends and family. You get to be outside and enjoy the scenery. However, if you prefer not to ski or snowboard, you could make a trip to the local ice rink! It is an inexpensive way of having fun. I recommend going to Pats Peak, Loon or Cannon Mountain because they have many different trails for a variety of skill levels.

Distance: 30-50 miles (Ski Mountain) and 10-20 miles (Ice rink)

Cost: \$30-40 per ticket (Ski Mountain) and \$5-10 (Ice rink)

Go Bowling: Bowling is fun because you could also play in the arcade after. You could go with many friends and compete in teams or individually. It depends on how many people you go with.

Distance: 10-15 miles

Cost: \$8-15

Enjoy yourself and have fun. Happy holidays and have a great vacation!

History of the Christmas Tree

By Katie Dawley

The Christmas tree, a beloved symbol of Christmas, has been around for years. The question is, where did it originate from?

The history of the tree dates back all the way to the 7th century in Germany where a monk developed the idea as a religious symbol of Christianity. Legend says that the monk found that the triangular shape of the tree was a perfect symbol for God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. By this time, the idea had become popular; trees were present in all Christian homes and hung from the ceilings upside down. However, it wasn't until the beginning of the 16th century that the first tree was decorated. In Latvia, Martin Luther decorated his Christmas tree with candles to symbolize stars in the sky at night.



As the idea of Christmas trees spread throughout Europe, mainly in Germany, markets were created in order to provide Christmas-time goods. People could purchase presents for their families, and tools to help with the tree and Christmas dinner. Gingerbread men also were brought about, as well as ornament to decorate the trees. Decorating the tree became a large part of the holiday tradition and brought families together. One family in particular that the tradition brought joy to was the royal family. In England, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert could be seen with their children gathered around a Christmas tree this time of year.

As the concept of the Christmas tree spread, it made its journey to America. In the United States, a traditional English Christmas tree became the most popular among the settlers. The settlers who immigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania had trees present in their towns in the early 1700's and were later decorating them with glass ornaments in the 1870's.

Since the vast popularity of Christmas trees was now growing even more, the idea of selling them grew as well. FW Woolworth became one of the first stores to sell trees and was followed by Americans inventing small lights to hang on the trees instead of the candles used on earlier models. The trees developed then have not changed that much today. They are still covered in an abundance of twinkling lights and brightly colored ornaments.

The only question left now is, with all the change that has been brought to the Christmas tree, what will the future now bring?

The Nature Column

By Michelle Shih

If you like doughnuts, you'll love to know that they naturally occur in nature!

However, the only downside is that these doughnuts are not sweet or delicious because they're made out of snow. Snow doughnuts, or snow rollers, are a naturally occurring phenomenon during the cold months of winter. It is called a snow doughnut due to its shape: it is a snowball with a hole through the middle. These structures are quite rare, and it may be unlikely that you'll ever see one. However, they do exist, and surprisingly, there can be hundreds in a single field.

Snow doughnuts typically occur on a flat surface, but they can occur on hilly areas as well. The strong winds push chunks of snow and they roll like tumbleweeds. The size of the snowball can eventually reach a diameter of 26 inches, which is about the size of a bicycle wheel. The process is rather similar to the one a child uses to make the body of a snowman. As the wind speed picks up, the center of the snow doughnut will eventually collapse, forming the doughnut hole.

The weather conditions must be extremely precise for this phenomenon to take place. Primarily, the snow on the ground must have an icy, crusty texture so that new snow can't stick on top of this layer. In addition, there must be around another inch of wet, loose snow covering the previous layer. The temperature must be around freezing point (32 degrees Fahrenheit). Most importantly, there must be a strong wind blowing at a rate of 25 mph or greater. If all these circumstances happen to take place on a cold, winter day, then you might get to see this special treat from nature.



Christmas Through the Years

By Gabriella Desmond

Each December, many people celebrate Christmas by giving gifts and bringing joy to others. But few know the history behind the holiday and why they wait for Santa to come down the chimney that night.

Pope Julius I created the Christian holiday, Christmas, to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. When he set the date for the holiday, the actual date of Jesus' birth was unknown, so he decided to place the holiday on December 25th. Christmas is a time for giving gifts, decorating the tree, being with family and, of course, for children to wait for Santa Claus to come.

In the middle ages, Christmas was very different than the warm and happy Christmas of today. Family and friends would go out and have loud, raucous fun, a lot like what people do on Mardi Gras today. In fact, because of this, Christmas was banned in Boston from 1659 to 1681 and anyone who was found celebrating was fined five shillings. And although many people celebrated Christmas, it was not declared a federal holiday in the United States until 1870.

Originally, the holiday had nothing to do with Santa Claus. Initially known as Saint Nicholas, Santa Claus was celebrated on December 1st with a feast. Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of sailors and children, was said to visit children's homes after bed and give them presents because he preferred not to be seen doing so in the day. A tradition developed that children would leave out fruit and desserts for him to eat.

The origin of his modern name, Santa Claus, came from Holland where they called him Sinter Klaas, short for Sint Nikolaas. In Washington Irving's book, *The History of New York*, he referred to Sinter Klaas as St. Nicholas, the patron saint of New York. Modern Santa is seen wearing a red suit trimmed in white. This was derived from the popular poem written by Clement Moore in 1823, "A Visit from St. Nicholas". He described Santa as a small, elfish, happy man wearing red and white and had a sleigh pulled by eight reindeer.



The company Coca Cola also helped further Santa's appearance in their ads, because their colors are also red and white. Rudolph the reindeer was not made part of Santa's team until 1939. Robert L. May published a book for children about a mistreated, red-nosed reindeer, Rudolph, who became a hero by lighting the way with his nose for Santa as they delivered presents on a dark and stormy Christmas Eve.

This Christmas, think about what the holiday is really about and why we celebrate it each year. Bring happiness to those around you and have fun with your family and friends. Merry Christmas!

Sources: <http://www.history.com/topics/santa-claus>, <http://www.history.com/topics/christmas>, <http://www.unmuseum.org/santa.htm>

The New Santa

Drawn by Ben DeSalvo



Around the World in Holiday Traditions

By Cara Olson

We're well into the month of December now, and you know what that means - the holidays are quickly approaching! The season of Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Years is in full swing. Around this great wide world of ours, there are many different traditions celebrated during the holiday season. Here are some of the most interesting holiday traditions from around the world.

New Year's Eve in Ecuador

Ecuador, a country in South America, has a fascinating New Year's Eve tradition that its culture enjoys celebrating. On the last day of the year, families in Ecuador dress up a straw man to represent the year that is about to end. The faces of the dummies can represent anything from political figures to old friends from the year. The family next writes a "will" for the straw man that list faults which the family hopes to drift away from when the new year arrives. At midnight, during a huge ceremony, everyone lights their dummies afire. This tradition goes back to the 1800s, but the origin is unclear. Some say that it comes from ancient Andean ritual combined with the Spanish rite of St. Joseph's feast. Through the night, the light and explosions from the firecrackers inside the dummies illuminate the cities of Ecuador.



Christmas in Austria

The European country of Austria celebrates Christmas like many of us in the U.S. do. In addition to jolly old Saint Nicholas, there is another classic holiday figure that tags along. Krampus is a furry, devilish creature with horns that joins Saint Nicholas on his rounds to children's homes. Krampus is Saint Nicholas' evil counterpart. Instead of bestowing gifts to children who have been good during the year, he punishes the bad ones. According to legend, Krampus will kidnap an especially naughty child for a midnight snack.

Hanukkah in America

Jewish people around the world celebrate the eight day religious holiday of Hanukkah during this season. Hanukkah holds many different traditions, and dreidel is one of the most beloved ones. The Hanukkah game instills a fun and lighthearted gambling among its players. To play, each person is given an equal number of coins, candies, or other game pieces. They take turns spinning the dreidel, which has four letters painted on the sides. The letters translate into a Hebrew sentence that means "a great miracle happened here", which refers to the oil that burned for eight days on the first Hanukkah. In addition, the letters on the sides of the dreidel each represent a separate action that the player takes if the dreidel lands on that symbol. The players lose

and gain their game pieces throughout the game. Children are also encouraged to trade candy and sometimes even money during the fun game.

Kwanzaa in Africa

Kwanzaa is a widely celebrated holiday, but few people know much about what the celebrators of Kwanzaa partake in. The holiday is representative of many different symbols, such as unity, creativity, and faith. Kwanzaa is a six-day celebration, but one of the most popular and fun days is the Karamu Feast. Karamu is generally celebrated on December 31st, the fifth day of Kwanzaa. The feast includes music, prayer, artistic performances, and finally, a feast. Karamu was first introduced in 1971, and has been a large part of Kwanzaa ever since.



Finding new and interesting holiday traditions from around the world is a fascinating way to learn about foreign cultures. For a spiced up holiday season, try one of these fun events during your winter!

History of Kwanzaa

By Mackenzie Hatfield

Everyone seems to know Christmas traditions, whether it's trees or a man in a red suit. But what about those who celebrate differently this time of year?

In African American culture, there is a holiday celebrated around this time of year, Kwanzaa. It was created in 1966 by Dr. Karenga to bring together the African American community. It lasts from December 26th to January 1st, and it is estimated that over 18 million people take part in the holiday.

Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday, nor is its purpose to replace Christmas. It was originally created to inspire African Americans during a time of great social change, to end racism and violence. The name comes from a phrase in Swahili, "matunda ya kwanza" which translates to "first fruits of the harvest." This is because the holiday was formed from many of the harvest celebrations in Africa.

The traditional colors of Kwanzaa are red, black, and green. Kwanzaa has seven basic principles that come from African traditional community values:

- Umoja, meaning unity, or a community that stays together.
- Kujichagulia, meaning self-determination, speaking your voice.
- Ujima, meaning collective work and responsibility; helping others.
- Ujamaa, meaning cooperative economics, or supporting local business.
- Nia, meaning a sense of purpose.
- Kuumba, meaning a sense of creativity and making things more beautiful.
- Imani meaning faith, believing that a better world may be created.

The celebration of these old values has now been around for almost 50 years in the African American community. Though it's a fairly newer tradition compared to most holidays, it seems to hold no less meaning to those who take part.



Origin of the Candy Cane

By Tyler Weir

Whether they are hanging on your tree or in your hand as you are enjoying them for a treat, the candy cane is one of the most popular symbols that represents Christmas. Candy canes usually only appear in stores around the Christmas season.

The candy cane dates back to 1672 in Germany. The tradition started when the unnamed choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral wanted to create a way to keep children quiet during church, especially at Christmas time. Children were exceptionally rowdy during the Christmas Eve mass because the kids were excited to receive their gifts.

In the spirit of Christmas, the choirmaster decided to go to a local candy maker to create a candy for children to enjoy during mass. He decided to make candy sticks in the shape of a cane to help the children remember the shepherds who paid a visit to baby Jesus on this very night.



The choirmaster chose to make the canes a pure white color to also teach the children. The white color was chosen to symbolize the wholesome Christian belief in a sinless life. The familiar red stripes we see were not added to the candy cane until the 20th century.

The red stripes have a variety of different interpretations. Many people believe that the bold red stripe is used to represent God's love. The three thin red lines are thought to represent the Holy Trinity; The father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, or to show the blood spilled when Jesus was crucified.

Christians also believe the candy cane was given its shape and color for other reasons as well. Some believe that the candy cane is actually a capital J, used to signify Jesus. Others also believe that the white base color is used to signify the purity of Jesus and his virgin birth.

Although the origin of the candy cane varies, the choirmaster story is considered to be the most fact oriented. Even before the red stripes were added, the candy cane has been a part of Christmas for generations. The color and shape is still used to this day. Although many companies have changed the colors and flavors of the candy cane, the original design seems to be the most popular.

Christmas would not be the same without some of these peppermint flavored canes.

Source: www.candycanefacts.com

DIY Ornaments

By Leah Callahan

During the holidays, you can walk into almost any store and see a display or aisles of different Christmas ornaments. There are all different kinds of ornaments to choose from, but making them is more fun, and you can even give them as a gift.

Here are some fun and simple ideas to help you create an authentic ornament this season:

Most craft stores sell clear glass or plastic bulbs; you can put paint inside the bulb and shake it around to create a splatter effect. You can also fill it with sprinkles to create a colorful and fun ornament, or you can just paint the outside however you would like.

If you have any old CD's lying around, you can cut up or break the CD in pieces and glue them to a clear bulb shiny side up. This creates a cool and different mirror-like bulb.

To create a reindeer bulb, you can put your thumb in brown paint, stamp it on the bulb, and when it's dry you can draw eyes and antlers on it.

There are endless possibilities when it comes to ornaments, you can make just about anything you want and put it on your tree- Happy Ornamenting!



The Nativity Scene

Drawn by Victoria Conwell



Holiday Film Favorites

By Katrina Polizzotti

There's no better time to enjoy a few holiday movies than during the final months of the year; they set the mood and excitement for the merry festivities! According to Forbes, here are a few of their favorite holiday movies.

The classic adaptation of Charles Dickens' novel, *A Christmas Carol* is a great Christmas story recreated by many over the years. This tale is about an old, miserable man by the name Ebenezer Scrooge who has a passionate dislike towards Christmas and the holiday season. Scrooge's old business partner, as well as three other ghosts, visit Scrooge on Christmas Eve. Each ghost takes Scrooge on a journey in hopes of changing the way he feels about the holidays.

Another classic is *Miracle On 34th Street*. This film is about a very nice, old man who claims that he is Santa Claus. When he is "institutionalized as insane" a young lawyer decides to defend him. The lawyer helps to argue with the court that this man is actually the real Santa Claus.

Gremlins, a movie that mixes some scares with the holidays is also a great choice. This film is about a young boy who unleashes a pack of loveable, yet troublesome and disobedient monsters who try to take over the small town of Kingston Falls. *Gremlins* was released in 1984 but continues to be a great choice for the family to watch together.

A true favorite to many is *Elf* starring Will Ferrell. This movie is simply about a man raised as an elf at the North Pole who is then sent to the U.S. in search of his father to find out his true identity. Will Ferrell plays the elf, who goes by the name of Buddy. This is a very funny film with many memorable lines that the whole family can enjoy. If you have not seen it, now is the time!



Back to the classics, an often forgotten one is *The Bishop's Wife*. According to Forbes' review, *The Bishop's Wife* is said to be "everything great, fun, and magical that a holiday movie should be." This movie was released in 1947, so it is an older one, but it does a great job of displaying some of the best Christmas traditions.

Another very well-known favorite is, *A Christmas Story*. This movie became an instant favorite as soon as it was released. This story follows a young boy, Ralphie, through the days leading up to Christmas as he works to convince his parents, as well as Santa, that a Red Ryder B.B. gun is the perfect gift for him.

These are a few movie suggestions mentioned by Forbes to be some of the all-time favorite holiday films. With Christmas right around the corner, in between shopping and wrapping gifts, make yourself a cup of hot chocolate, snuggle up on the couch with a warm blanket and enjoy one of these great films.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/markhughes/2013/12/03/top-10-best-christmas-movies-of-the-last-decade/>

Cool Local Winter Activities

By Kayla Doherty

Looking for a fun, exciting way to make your winter one to remember? Well, then you've found the right article! Winter sometimes can turn to a dull, boring season with not being able to play outside like you would during other seasons. But, that doesn't mean you still can't have fun!

On December 4th, in New York City, the Rockefeller Christmas Tree Lighting will occur, with thousands of people lined up along the sidewalks as the tree is lit. The Christmas tree will remain lit until January 7th, 2014, which allows anyone to view the Christmas tree throughout the winter season!

From November 8th to December 30th, Radio City Music Hall will also be hosting its annual Radio City Christmas Spectacular! The performance is done by a famous group of dancers known as the Rockettes. The Radio City Music Hall will be celebrating its 86th tradition of performing in New York this year. The show is known to be a must see and a once in a lifetime opportunity. Also, the Radio City Christmas Spectacular is also known to be one of the top tourist places during the winter season.

Looking for some fun on the ice? Well, you're just in luck! Boston has a spectacular pond known as the Boston Common Frog Pond. The pond is a great environment for all kids at any age and even for adults! With such a positive atmosphere, the pond has had great reviews and has been known to be a must see. The Boston Common Frog Pond also has a café as a place to warm up in. With great food, warm fireplaces, and amazing staff, the café is a great way to take a break from skating and stay warm. For those who have never skated before, don't worry, Boston Common Frog Pond holds skating lessons with extraordinary instructors with lots of experience.

If you're looking for somewhere to hangout for the day, Ski Bradford is a nice, local area to spend the day with your family! Ski Bradford has tubing and slopes to ski on with also many educated instructors to teach lessons. The ski resort has a fantastic dining hall where you can go to keep warm and eat with family as well. Ski Bradford has many good reviews and should definitely be at the top of your list for places to visit in the winter!

With winter around the corner, be sure to make plans in order for this winter to be the best winter! There are many local winter activities all around, don't forget to check some of them out!

Top 10 Christmas Movies and Specials

By Aaron Sickel

Every year, when the holiday season arrives, one of everyone's favorite things to do is sit back, drink some hot cocoa, and watch a wonderful Christmas movie. So the question is, what Christmas movie do you choose?

Almost every genre is incorporated with Christmas movies and specials. Some films revolve around drama, some are hysterically funny, and others are even filled with action. These 10 films listed below are my personal favorites of all time:

1. *Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer*: This classic film explains the entire song of "Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer." It explains what a misfit reindeer and his friend have to go through because they are unwanted. However, it turns out that Rudolph is the most valuable reindeer of all.
2. *Dr. Seuss: How the Grinch Stole Christmas*: This film is awesome as it shows that everyone has the Christmas spirit in them. The Grinch does his best to try and stop Christmas from happening but his heart grows and he eventually finds joy in Christmas.
3. *The Year without a Santa Claus*: This animated TV special is unforgettable. If you don't know who the Heat Miser and Snow Miser are, then you must watch this! The plot explains how upset the world becomes if Christmas was to be cancelled.
4. *Frosty the Snowman*: This classic TV show explains the story of the song, "Frosty the Snowman" and explains exactly what happened in the legend.
5. *Elf*: *Elf* is a story about a 30 year-old elf that has a father who is on Santa's naughty list. Buddy the Elf goes to find his father in this comedy film. The film is family oriented and viewers of all ages will get a laugh out of it!
6. *Charlie Brown Christmas*: This is the first primetime animated special ever to reach television. Although it's old, this classic should not be forgotten. It shares the spirit of Christmas and touches on the fascinating festivities involved in Christmas.
7. *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York*: Kevin is just a kid, yet he finds himself lost in New York during the Christmas season. If you haven't seen this *Home Alone* sequel it is a must see. It is guaranteed to make you laugh.
8. *The Santa Clause*: This family comedy has a great plot and is bound to make you laugh. A father is forced to become Santa Claus when he accidentally makes the real Santa fall off of his roof.
9. *Deck the Halls*: Two neighbors have it out after one of them decorates his house for the holidays so brightly that it can be seen from space.
10. *Polar Express*: The train boards and heads to the North Pole giving the children a chance to see where Santa does his work. The scenery and spectacular plot of the movie make it well worth watching! The movie is made by a true realistic, animation.

There are hundreds of holiday themed television shows and movies; however, I feel that these 10 are ones that everyone must see! So whenever you find some free time, get yourself in the Christmas spirit by watching one of these!

The Abominable Snowman

By Alyssa DeFranco

Building a snowman is a complex process which takes a lot of determination to master. Some are born with the skill and others learn it. If you follow my process, you are sure to be the Picasso of the art of snowman building.

First things first, make sure you have warm gloves on. Put your mittens away, those things aren't meant for hardworking in the snow. Also, make sure the snow is the right consistency; it can't be too fluffy or too icy. The ideal snow would be sticky and a little fluffy. You also want to make sure the snow's clean; no one wants a dirty brown or yellow snowman unless that's the look you're going for.



Drawn by Shelby Vigliotta

Now to make the bottom of the snowman, gather a little pile of snow and press it into a ball. Roll it forward, to the right, to the left, and all around to make sure the sphere is even. Keep rolling that snow until it's about the width of a tire and big enough to be a stable bottom. Make sure you leave it in a place where you want your snowman to be. Maybe that's in front of your house, in the middle of the road, or in front of a friend's house.

The next part is the middle of the snowman. Roll the snow into a big enough pile so it's about the size of a basketball, but a little bigger. Make sure it's not too heavy because you want to be able to lift it up and put it down. After that, you need to make the head of the snowman. It should be the size of a basketball or a little smaller, just make sure it's proportional.

Now it's time to decorate your piece of art! Give it some nice eyes by using some rocks, a carrot for the nose (if you don't have a carrot you can use something like a stick), rocks for a nice big smile, twigs for his arms, and some buttons down his body. Don't forget to give him a nice warm hat and scarf for when it gets cold outside! You can make your snowman however you want to; make it sad, happy, angry or confused.

At the end of the day, the most important thing is that you have fun making your snowman. Happy Holidays!

Joyeux Noël

By Liam Lundt

Joyeux Noël, Fröhliche Weihnachten, Merry Christmas. You may not understand what some of these expressions mean, but on one Christmas Eve in 1914 there was a universal language spoken amongst enemies; the language of peace.

Throughout the First World War, men fought each other constantly and violently in the trenches. Due to the awful conditions of the trenches, such as the mud, rats and a lack of food, their lives were miserable. The fact that they were drafted, or involuntarily sent to fight, made the war even worse. During the fighting, their hatred for each other grew, but as time went on, their discontent for the war grew as well. By December of 1914, the war had been waging for six months. What was supposed to be a relatively short confrontation was turning into a dead lock. Many soldiers remained focused on the fighting even with Christmas drawing near. However, in some sections along the Western Front the men took a different approach.

On the eve of Christmas, carols broke out in the German trenches. This led to small scale celebrations and decorations were placed around the trenches. The British forces and a fraction of the French forces responded to the Germans with carols of their own. The Christmas spirit spilled out of the trenches and filled the air. Slowly and cautiously, the soldiers from the German side emerged from their trenches to meet their British, Scottish and French enemies. While in the middle, the men exchanged gifts of food, chocolate, tobacco and alcohol. Husbands exchanged pictures of their wives and fathers showed enemy soldiers pictures of their family as the men bonded. They played soccer, traded buttons, gave haircuts and conversed through translators. Joint burial services were held and the dead, that had covered the battlefield for so long, were finally buried.



© Getty Images/The Bridgeman Art Library

The cease-fire differed along each front. Unfortunately, war still waged along other fronts. Although the war did not end on that night, for many it was forever changed. Orders were issued on both sides for the men to never repeat the fraternization and future friendly exchanges with the enemy were discouraged. Although the orders were clear and decisive, throughout the remainder of the war, attempts at truces were made, some ending in success.

There are not many things in the world that can stop enemies from hating one another, even for a brief period of time, but Christmas however, is one of them. This event shows the true nature of man, that he would rather befriend his enemy than be filled with hate on Christmas. There is a lesson to be learned from this event, and it is that Christmas means more than getting presents. Christmas is the time for family, friendship and forgiveness, and it would do everyone a great deal of good to follow in these heroic men's footsteps and display the true nature of Christmas this year.

Holiday Saving Tips

By Katrina Polizzotti

During the holiday months, families from all over spend hundreds of dollars to reach the holiday expectations of everybody around them. Here are some tips to help you save money this year.

1. Set a budget for how much you are willing to spend. When setting a budget, many people do not remember to include all expenses. Be sure to add the costs of everything from postage stamps for Christmas cards to holiday decorations. Setting a budget can prevent overspending.
2. Make a list of all the people you plan to buy for. This gives you an idea of how many people you will be shopping for so equally distributing expenses is easy. Double check your list to make sure you will have included everybody and then set a reasonable limit for each person. This way, you will be more focused on the amount you will spend instead of what you are buying.
3. Use cash as much as possible. Use your budget to set a limit and take only that amount out of your bank. It is better to use cash instead of other forms of payment because your expenses will be paid for and you won't have any holiday bills leftover to start off the new year.
4. Don't wait until the last minute to do your holiday shopping. With extra time to look for gifts and goodies, it will be easier to find the best deals. When shopping under pressure, impulse purchases are more likely to be made.

Finally, remember the reason for the season. It doesn't matter whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa; keep in mind how the holidays were started and what they are meant to be about. Instead of spending the final days rushing around the stores, use that time to be with your family and closest friends.



The Trees' Revenge

Drawn by Billy White

Best Tech Gifts

By Jake Perkins

The Holidays are coming up very fast and people nowadays are asking for technology based gifts. Here is my list of the top tech gifts this year.

Lenovo IdeaCentre Horizon 27- This 27-inch computer will provide plenty of entertainment. It is an all-in-one desktop, basically designed for casual gaming. Its huge screen and lay-flat design makes it perfect for some family fun. Not only can you get the latest apps, including air hockey and Monopoly, but you can do everything you normally do on your computer. This is a great gift for someone looking to play and work with one device. The only downside is the clunky kickstand and short battery life. Prices usually start around \$1,247.22 for one of these bad boys. It's expensive, but well worth it.

HTC One-der- One of the top rated smartphones of this year has a 5-inch, HD display and can control your TV. It has an outstanding 1080p metal design with capable speakers that will blow other smartphones out of the water. One draw to the phone is the sealed case, which means no SD card expansion, but it already doubles the Galaxy S4's storage, so this may not be a problem for most. Overall this is a great smartphone, and starting at \$99.99 it's practically a steal.

Apple iPad Air- This is the tablet to get this year. Although the competition with Apple has been getting stronger, Apple retains the throne with the iPad Air. It has all those great apps from the App Store that you've always loved. As the name infers, the iPad Air has a sleek new design, including a more thin and light package. The only drawback here is that Apple did not include the fingerprint sensor that it has on the iPhone 5s, meaning that if you have a lock on your tablet, you still have to type in the code. If you're looking to buy this tablet you can find a 16GB iPad Air for \$499. This isn't the cheapest, but it's the highest quality tablet on the market.

PlayStation 4- If we're talking tech gifts, there's no way you can leave out the PlayStation 4. This is the newest system released by PlayStation, and it overpowers the new Xbox One. Not only is it \$100 cheaper than the new Xbox at \$399, but it will also serve up dazzling graphics and great digital games. The only problem is that PlayStation 3 games are not compatible with the new system. This means the library of games won't be very big, and you will have to purchase new games as they come out. Other than that this system looks to be the new powerhouse in gaming.

If you want your friends and family to have a good Holiday, you have to come in clutch with one of these gifts. I know I would want some of these gifts, and I'm sure I'm not the only one!

Do It Yourself: Homemade Gifts

By Andrea Ahearn

Some of the best gifts are the ones from the heart. Our society has become so focused on materialistic items, that we have forgotten what the spirit of Christmas is truly about. This year why not make something special for your family and friends!

The first gift you could make is simple and fun, cookies! Baking cookies has been a holiday tradition for years which brings family and friends closer together. Depending on how creative you're feeling, you could go with the classic chocolate chip or purchase some tree shaped cookie cutters to decorate. You could even go beyond this idea by making your own gingerbread cookies, add some frosting and they're ready to go! Wrap these up on a plate with a card and your thoughtful gift for a loved one is complete.

Another simple gift you could make and give to friends during this holiday season are Santa hats made with fresh strawberries. Fruit is always a delicious choice because it is something sweet and healthy around the holiday times. To make these, all you need is strawberries and some vanilla frosting, it's as simple as that!

The final homemade gift you can give to your family and friends is a snow globe. These are super easy and inexpensive to make! All you will need to create this fun gift is a mason jar, small Christmas trinkets, such as a tiny, decorative tree or a reindeer. You will also need glue, artificial snow and some water to complete this gift. To create this, your first step is to glue the small holiday knick-knacks to the lid of the mason jar; the lid will be the base of your snow globe. Once the ornaments dry, sprinkle some snow into the jar, add water and then put the lid tightly back on top. You now have made a creative gift that will later become a great Christmas decoration to be enjoyed for years to come!

A final holiday gift idea that is super easy to make is a crafty coffee mug. To create this, all you will need is a white coffee cup and black chalkboard paint. The fun part about these mugs is that once the paint dries you can write on them with chalk and then wash it off for next time.

This Christmas, the coffee mug, strawberry Santa hats, a snow globe and holiday cookies will all make great additions under the tree this year. Making your own holiday gifts is an exciting activity that will leave your friends and family with a smile on their faces during this holiday season!

It's Tree Time!

By Brian Mills and Tyler Weir

For the twentieth consecutive year, Methuen's Festival of Trees made another merry appearance.

Opening its doors on November 23rd, through December 7th, the Festival of Trees spent another year raising money to preserve Methuen's historic treasures, such as buildings and artifacts. Hundreds of diverse trees are donated each year by members of the community, and can be won by any participating guest with the purchase of raffle tickets.

It costs eight dollars to enter the building on weekdays, and ten dollars on the weekends. If you have any children under the age of twelve, they can attend for free. The hours vary, but it usually is an all-day event that comes to a close around 9pm.

Adam Marchand, 17, has been a volunteer for many years at the festival. When asked the reason for this holiday event, he responded proudly, "The purpose of the festival, being a non-profit organization, is to earn money for restoration. The Methuen Festival of Trees has donated thousands of dollars to preserve the heritage and monuments around Methuen and Merrimack Valley."

While Marchand is proud of the money raised for local restoration, the Festival of Trees means even more to him, "This is the 20th anniversary," Marchand went on, "and there's way more to it than just winning a decorated tree. The festival provides college scholarships to high school volunteers and also [donates] money to projects, not only down the street from me in Methuen, but also in Sandown NH, Hampstead NH, and dozens of other towns." The trees are virtually always original and festive. Upon entering, a guest's eyes are immediately stunned by the amount of exuberant colors illuminated by the plethora of trees.

Trees vary from sporty themed, such as a Santa scoring a goal with his feet in the air as an allusion to Bobby Orr's famous goal, to movie styled, such as The Wizard of Oz that included little figurines of all the characters from this historic film. Trees also vary in size, from two to eleven feet tall, showing the endless possibilities to explore.



The Festival of Trees should be a part of every family's Christmas tradition. Even though the doors have come to a close this season, there's always next year!

Dressing For Success?

By Hope Aubrey

Dresses, antlers, booties and tails. What do all of these have in common? You guessed it, pet costumes!

Whether it is fitting a dress on a pet or engaging in the antics of trying to wrestle some antlers on them, there is no denying the love these owners have for their pets. There seem to be pet costumes for any occasion; if you want it, the internet is sure to have it. Between pet stores, online pet clothing stores, department stores, or just a quick Google search, pet owners can find just the right attire for their beloved animal.



Timberlane student Katrina Polizzotti dresses her Jack Russell Terrier, Jack, in a sweater for the holidays. When asked why she puts him in a sweater she said, "I put it on him when it gets really cold out because he's not too crazy about the snow and it looks adorable on him!" Although many owners choose to go all out on costumes, there are many less flashy outfits to dress a pet in, such as sweaters.

If you Google search, "pet costumes," you get hundreds of pages filled with dog costumes. Christmas, Halloween, Thanksgiving, you name it and there is a costume for it. However, dogs are not the only animals sporting those costumes. If dogs can do it, why can't cats?

Fitting that cat into a costume can be quite challenging but results in quite memorable pictures and a story worth telling. These crazy stories and pictures are all over social media where oftentimes there are polls on cute vs. crazy costumes.

With the holidays upon us, there will certainly be many adorable, hilarious and downright crazy costumes. Keep your eyes peeled for those memorable photos; they will surely give you a good laugh!

Holiday Gift Guide: What to Get Girls

By Caroline Davies

Don't know what to get your girlfriend for the holidays? Or even your mother, sister, or close friend? Guys, you've looked in the right place! Girls can sometimes be tricky to buy for. Whether they are really girly or more of a tomboy, I have some great gift ideas for the upcoming holidays! If you didn't realize how close the holidays are, then you really are looking in the right place.

Clothes; You can never go wrong with clothes, as long as you know the girl's size. If you see them often and you see what they wear, normally you will be able to pick something out that you can picture them wearing. If you don't see them wearing bright colors often, don't take the risk and buy them something outrageous. There is that great chance that they probably won't wear it. If you get something you think is a bit of a risk, always include a gift receipt with the gift in case they want to exchange it, especially if it's the wrong size!



Jewelry; Most girls no matter what love getting jewelry! Jewelry is something that a girl can wear often that symbolizes something meaningful to them. Whether it is a necklace, bracelet, earrings, ring, etc. If you want to make your gift more personalized, you could find a piece of jewelry with their birthstone or maybe with their initials. If they love to play a certain sport you could find a charm that symbolizes that sport or even an activity they like to do. You can never go wrong with an Alex and Ani bracelet. These are sold online or at most Hallmarks. They all have different special charms that all mean special things. Browse through the different kinds and see which one would mean the most to the girl you are shopping for!

Tickets; Tickets to some event could be a great gift and make a great time for the two of you! If you know that your significant other really wants to see their favorite band, look up to see when they're coming to the area. If you know they have always wanted to go to a Bruins game, check out Stub Hub or Ticketmaster to see if there are some good deals on tickets. Tickets make for a great gift however this might be a pricy option depending on the event. If you are willing to spend a lot on this person then by all means, this is a good choice for you.

Sentimental Gift; Girls love when they can tell a guy put a lot of thought into their gift. If you find a really nice picture of the two of you, you could find a frame at any store and put it in it. Any girl would really appreciate this as a gift, they could put it in their room and display it, that way it will always remind them of you. Another idea would be to come up with a clever theme and make something to go along with it. Whether it's a card, or a DIY you found online, this gift won't go unnoticed.

Of course there are many different things you could get a girl, but these ideas cover the basis of all types of girls. Whether she loves to shop or she loves to play sports, there is a gift idea for anyone in between. Hopefully this will help you for your holiday shopping this year and will keep you stress free! Happy holidays and goodluck!

What to Get the Folks?

By Tyler Simard

Whether you don't have a dollar to your name or you're raking in the weekly paycheck, a Christmas present for your parents can be easy to find. Think about it. You are around your parents all year round so it might be simple to think of something they might need.

All year your parents ask you to do odds and ends around the house. If you are short on cash or just looking to save some money try going out of your way to get some chores done without them asking.

If you have some extra money there are many ideas for both mom and dad. You could even get them a gift card to a restaurant. This one's a win, win. You satisfy your parents while getting them a great present, leaving you with the house to yourself for a night.



Cartoon created by Kirsten Herchenroder

Separate gifts will be another option for you to choose. When shopping for mom, almost anything will suffice. Most mothers will just be happy you got them something. Some ideas can include a candle, jewelry, kitchenware, and so on. Even taking your mother out for the day will mean a lot to her.

Buying a gift for your dad can be a bit more difficult, but if you know him well it will be a breeze. Take into consideration what he does for work. If he is using his hands a lot, outside or getting dirty in his job, anywhere from tools to car accessories would work. If your dad spends his day in an office, get him something for his desk. Even feel free to go with the cliché "#1 DAD" coffee mug.

Don't feel too pressured though. If you forget to get a gift for mom and dad, how much does it matter? Even if you don't get them anything they'll still love you, however if you go that extra mile, your mom and dad we'll surely appreciate it.

New Year's at Times Square: The Tradition

By Aaron Sickle

The clock reads 11:00 and at that point, everyone's televisions are tuned into ABC, waiting for the clock to strike midnight and the glorifying ball to drop. Everyone knows what the ball is, but the question is, where did this tradition come from?

The famous ball drop at Times Square in New York City dates all the way back to 1907, when the ball was dropped to celebrate the New Year of 1908. However, a large festival celebrating the New Year has occurred in Times Square since 1903.

In 1904, Adolph Ochs, who was the owner of the New York Times, set up a firework display on New Year's Eve to celebrate not only the New Year, but also the new location of the New York Times. The new address was 1 Times Square. Over 200,000 people showed up to his event in the first year. Eventually it grew, and more and more people showed up. In the year 2007, Ochs decided he wanted something even bigger and better than fireworks to be displayed from the roof of his newspaper headquarters.

One of the newspaper's chief electricians suggested creating a time ball. Hence, Adolph Ochs agreed and hired people to make a massive time ball. When finished, the first ever ball weighed 700 pounds and was lit with over 100 light bulbs. The massive ball was used for a few years after its creation.

Since then, numerous reconstructions have been made to the ball. Almost every couple years, a new ball is made, and it is made much more modern. However, no ball will ever be the same as the original time ball made by Adolph Ochs.

Source: <http://www.timessquarenyc.org/events/new-years-eve/history/index.aspx>



My Experience: A New Year's to Remember

By Michelle Shih

There is only one place to be on the night of December 31st, and that is Times Square, New York City. It is where the largest gathering of people from all over the world come together to celebrate the world's liveliest New Years Eve party.

However, due to the hectic journey it takes to get there, many people only experience it once or don't even bother at all. A lot of energy is put into going to Times Square to watch the New Year's Eve ball drop, but it is up to you if it's worth it or not. December 31st of 2012 I just so happened to be in New York City and I knew I had to go, so I thought I would share my experience with you.

We left at 3:00 pm, which was actually considerably late. Being a native born New Yorker, I showed no remorse in pushing through the huge crowds of people waiting to get into Times Square. It took us about an hour and a half to pass through security and enter Times Square to claim a nice spot near the fence. I remember thinking to myself, "This is it. This is a once in a lifetime experience and I'm finally here." However, I did not realize that the next nine hours would be pure torture. In addition to the chilly temperatures of the night, there was also no place to sit and no place to use the bathroom. Every so often, promoters would hand out massive amounts of New Years Eve hats, noise makers, and other little souvenirs, and because we were near the fence, I would nearly be trampled to death as people pushed through to get their hands on the gifts.

Despite these factors, the energy in the air was incredible. When I turned around in a full circle, all I saw were people from all over the world equally eager to celebrate the year's end. The eight hour wait until midnight was the perfect time to meet and get to know a variety of people. Nearing the final hour of the night, everyone's weariness slowly deteriorated to reveal a new shell of tangible excitement. In no time at all, all of Times Square started the big countdown to midnight. The feeling I got when the clock struck twelve and I looked up to see one ton of confetti come down towards me was like none other.

Sticking with your New Year's Resolution

By Cam Scarpa

Everyone has their own "New Year's Resolution". What is it? New Year's Resolution is basically a goal people set to help themselves. The start of a fresh year means time to change something also. The most common goal is to lose weight, or eat healthy such as eliminating candy and junk food from their diet. Anyone can make up their own. Studies and news reports all over the U.S show most parents try to quit smoking, or drinking, but fail to after a few weeks. But there can be goals such as making the honor roll or saving money. Although these goals might sound great, there can be a down side. Most people lack motivation or simply go for their goal but fail to keep up with it. It is hard to give up things you love therefore making it hard to give up important items.

There are a few ways to stay with your commitment. For example, if you want to set a weight goal that you want to be then make up a chart or set a reminder on your calendar or phone telling you to eat healthy or go to the gym. The top resolution has been "Getting Fit" said by most people setting a resolution. Have a chart telling you to stop what you're doing, and go to the gym or to remind you to eat healthy. Motivation means the most. Have a friend or personal trainer help with your goal. The most important help is all in your head. Keep telling you're self you can do it. Keep on working hard and results will show. Family can be the biggest motivation for you. Tell your parents or a brother or sister that you are trying to commit to a goal and you need their help. You will be surprised how much it can show.

New Year's resolutions are supposed to be good for you and help you. Set your goal this year and even have friends or family help motivate you to achieve your happiness. If you set yourself a goal, go for it. It's there to make you feel better about yourself and help you in the long run.



What's Your New Year's Resolution, Timberlane?

By Caroline Davies

As we are approaching the holidays, we are sadly ending a great year of 2013. New Years is coming right around the corner, quicker than we can imagine! Around this time, everyone's mindset is out with the old and in with the new. Hopefully, everyone is looking towards a better and brighter year, 2014! A popular New Year's tradition that has been around since medieval times is to make a New Year's Resolution. What is that you may ask? A New Year's Resolution is a goal you set for yourself to improve or better your life for the coming year. Maybe you have learned many lessons from the previous year that you want to make sure you apply to your life for years to come. Or maybe you want to change something drastically in your life; a new year is a perfect time to set goals! So like I said, it's coming quick and you should start thinking about what your New Year's Resolution is! I asked a few Timberlane students what their resolution is for this year. Maybe this will help you if you aren't quite sure yet.

The famous senior, Matt "MJ" Jackson told us, "I want to get better grades and not procrastinate." School and grade related resolutions are great! They are very attainable if you work hard and keep your goal in mind.

Nicole Bruen, senior, said, "For 2014, I want to be able to save more money." Saving money is crucial for the average high schooler. Without any kind of plan, you wouldn't be able to pay for gas and out of school activities. Maybe you could accomplish that goal by getting a job! Bruen has already done so where she works at Rite Aid.

"For 2014, I want to relax more, kind of start over and have a good transition into college," said Chris Robinson, Mr. Timberlane. A New Year's Resolution could be as simple as that. If you feel that you are normally a stressed out person, try to maintain yourself. If you focus on it enough, you will definitely be able to do it. It's all about perseverance, and Robinson definitely seems like he's all about it.

If you can't tell, resolutions sound like a pretty good idea. If you make it practical and something you are really passionate about, you can do it! The most common resolutions are usually losing weight, spending more time with family, or even improving your work ethic. My best advice is to consider what you really want from 2014 that you may have learned from 2013. So take time to think about what you want to change for next year, go into 2014 with a positive outlook. Happy New Year, Timberlane!

Hunger Games: Catching Fire Review

By Alex LeBlanc

In my experience, the second movie from a series of three or four movies is not the best of the first two; but in this case, *Catching Fire* is most definitely the better of the two movies. Not only was the sequel to *The Hunger Games* better, but the second movie, *Catching Fire*, was one of the best sequels that I have ever seen. This movie exceeded my expectations by far and was much more engaging than I had expected.

The second portion of the four part saga starts off with Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark's return after their victory of the 74th Hunger Games. Soon after, rebellion ensues throughout the districts of Panem, making Katniss and Peeta the Capitol's targets. Both Katniss and Peeta had become symbols of hope for a better life for the people of Panem.

One of the only downsides to this newest addition to the Hunger Games family is all the implications and foreshadowing that someone may miss while watching the movie. The mind games and scheming made following the plot a bit difficult and confusing. Because the plot was so tricky to follow, I would suggest seeing the first Hunger Games before seeing this one. I did, however, like all the action and strategy throughout the movie. The ending was unsatisfying, leaving what would happen next as a mystery, which made me crave the next movie.

Overall, I was very impressed with the visual effects of the movie as well as the emotional depth and connections created between the viewer and the characters. Although there were some downsides to the movie, I want to see the next of the series, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1*, set to be released in November, 2014.



ALBUM REVIEW – BANGERZ-Miley Cyrus

By Austin Marshall

If you have recently witnessed Miley on the news or the internet, you can tell her physical appearance has changed. Along with her new haircut, she dresses very differently but uniquely. But all of this wasn't just for the heck of it, she wanted a new look with her new music and all of this to complement her new album, *Bangerz*.

Bangerz was officially released to iTunes on 10/4/2013. *Bangerz* will have you wondering what happened to Miley? It is very different from her old music, but in a way, you can still feel a bit of her past in her new album. Whether you like it or not, she really doesn't care. *Bangerz* was said to make listeners confused and anxious about each next track on the album because they are all so different. With this new album, Miley has gained many fans and lost some as well, but this release definitely shows more of who she really is and wants to be.



On her new album, Miley also featured a lot of popular artists. Nelly, Future and Big Sean, just to name a few, all helped with this production. By changing up her style in both her music and appearance, fans and others should certainly know what she's all about now. I personally liked the change she took. I think it fits well with the current hip-hop industry and will work out well.

To kick it all off, Miley released "We Can't Stop" as an early preview to the release of *Bangerz*. I think this song did a good job of showing everyone what Miley is now looking for in her music. All and all, I liked the album. It's very different as I already said and it definitely lures fans and different music lovers in to listen. The album will most likely fit many different tastes and opinions as well. I think she can finally be herself not only in her music, but to the world.

Comparing Carries

By Katrina Polizzotti

The original movie *Carrie* was made in 1976. It is now 37 years later and a remake of the classic has been released.

The movie is based on Stephen King's novel, *Carrie*. It is a horror/thriller/drama about an abused and timid seventeen year-old girl who discovers that she has telekinesis. The night of her high school prom, Carrie is the target of a humiliating prank which pushes her to her limit, driving her towards seeking revenge.

Similarities between the two movies include how the plot is set up in the same order of events and the anti-bullying moral that shows there are consequences that come with being a bully.

As there are a few similarities between the two versions of *Carrie*, there are also noticeable differences; none that drastically change the plot. The remake of this classic does a really good job adjusting the time and setting to today without actually altering the movie.

The new release of *Carrie* was provided to us 37 years later than the original. With that much of a jump, there would have to be some sort of setting change to make this classic more relatable. This idea was very successful. The technology of this time and decade was used throughout the entire movie replacing small things. For example, all the students had cell phones. While the original showed Carrie being bullied in a gym locker room, the harassment in the updated version doesn't stop after the tormenting and name-calling. One of the girls continues to hurt Carrie by pulling out her phone and capturing a video of Carrie, during her breakdown, which later is updated to YouTube to further Carrie's embarrassment. This scene highlights a message that is more relevant with teens now.

Another difference between the original and the revamped film, which in some ways makes the newer version more enjoyable, is that even though Carrie is still awkward and socially inept, she tries to break out of her shell to fit in. In the original, Carrie is terrified to speak back to her very Christian mother. In the updated version, Carrie not only speaks back to her mother without getting slapped, but she also locks her mother in the closet. Carrie's mother actually begins to fear her daughter's abilities of telekinesis in the updated version, instead of the other way around as it is in the original. The refurbished version of the film also pushes aside the religious factors of the plot, portraying it as not an important theme to the story and events that occur.

Though I have not read Stephen King's original piece, many reviews state that the new film stays truer to the book. It clarifies a lot of moments from the original. The original *Carrie* focuses on the theme of a dysfunctional mother/daughter relationship solely between Carrie and her mom. The new version expands the theme and portrays relationships from other perspectives such as fellow high school classmate, Sue Snell and her relationship with her mother. The revised version of the classic depicts Sue Snell and her boyfriend, Tommy Ross, as only having good intentions toward Carrie, despite their popularity; this is the way King predetermined it to be. The announcement that occurs at the very ending of the new film was adapted to be just like the book.

Both versions of *Carrie* were very enjoyable to watch! It doesn't matter if you've seen either version, or just one. The two films are equally entertaining and provide the same anti-bullying message.



Fearon's Lift Tips

By Andy Fearon

This article may affect a lot of people, especially you senior bros out there looking to get a sick "college body." The only problem is if you lift like a "bro", you can kiss your results goodbye because they're not coming anytime soon.

A lot of people in our school are notorious for having a routine that goes like chest, arms, shoulders and then repeating it. You should add legs and back to your exercise because they help you a lot, even though they are the most neglected muscle groups on the body. You're not lifting to your full potential if you skip legs or back, so you should add them to your workout regime.

Another common lifting mistake centers upon lifters doing the wrong number of sets and reps. Four sets of 8-12 reps have been proven to be the number one muscle building rep and set range, so I recommend doing that if you want to build muscle, which you do because it's everyone's goal in life.

Winter is also coming and many people are looking to bulk up for the winter which is basically just an excuse to be lazy on your diet, gain weight and improve your bench press, but there are healthy ways of going about it. You could do a clean bulk which is when you eat chicken or steak and gain weight by eating healthier foods or you do the more unhealthy option which is a dirty bulk, which is when you gain weight by eating processed foods like Oreos or McDonalds. No matter what bulk you decide to do, if you even choose to bulk at all, make sure that you are drinking a gallon of water a day because the water flushes out all of the bad toxins in your body.



"Happy Holidays" rather than "Merry Christmas"

By Brian Mills

Although America is the country of "The Melting Pot," not everything mixes together perfectly.

It is important to be verbally sensitive during the holiday season. The phrase, "Happy Holidays" creates a more welcoming atmosphere for the plethora of non-Christian religions in America.

The United States is home to many different religions, ranging from Christianity to Buddhism to Judaism to Atheism. Christmas is traditionally a Christian holiday, meaning that a large portion of America's population does not partake in Christmas at all. By saying, "Happy Holidays," rather than, "Merry Christmas," you avoid an awkward confrontation with the large part of our community that is non-Christian.

Think of this in possibly a new perspective: Say that you are a Christian, and you are approached by a Buddhist man. If he were to say, "Happy Vesak," a holiday that celebrates the birth of Buddha, you may feel awkward for not celebrating the same event. If he had said, "Happy Holidays," you completely avoid the awkward confrontation.

While in public, it is senseless to assume that everyone believes in the same religion. By saying "Happy Holidays," you are simply recognizing that there are people with other belief systems in our great country.

On Mother's Day, society is often very sensitive to who they say "Happy Mother's Day" to. It would be hurtful to say the phrase to a woman whom cannot have children. The same respect should be utilized during the Christmas holiday to all people who are not celebrating the same event as you.

It's simple; say "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas" to oncoming strangers. That way, everyone gets the message- no matter what religion they believe in.



Is Black Friday too Commercialized?

By Mike Foster

In recent decades, more and more people are going on shopping sprees after their Thanksgiving parties and the news is filled with many stories of people fighting or getting trampled. These stories have given Black Friday a negative connotation and have led to many questioning the morality of people leaving early to get great deals.

Many people believe that Thanksgiving and Christmas have been too commercialized, saying that the spirit has taken a backseat to the need for buying gifts for loved ones. However, I disagree. The Christmas spirit is still pertinent in the country. Everywhere you go, you hear Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas is You" or Nat King Cole's "The Christmas Song." People are still jolly, kids continue to wait for Santa and a majority of people are still donating to the Salvation Army and other charities.

I would be lying if I said that I wasn't at the mall late on Thanksgiving, but this year definitely seemed more calm, organized and relaxed than previous years. This is likely due to stores opening at 8:00PM instead of midnight. People were in orderly lines and the mall wasn't all that hectic.

I agree that Black Friday can get crazy, but it has not hindered the sincerity of the Christmas spirit that fills everyone's hearts. Families still deck the halls, children still dash through the snow, and Jack Frost definitely still nips at your nose. However, this may be easy for me to say since I didn't have to work on Thanksgiving.



Cartoon drawn by Kaitlyn Jones

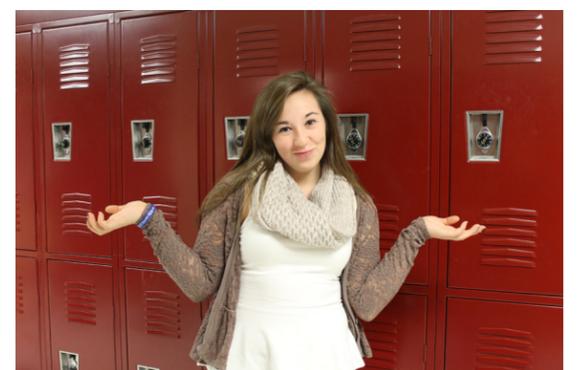
What Hannah Hates: Holiday Edition

By Hannah Burt

The holiday season is generally a happy time for most people. People are able to express their spirit and exchange gifts with their loved ones. However, there has always been one thing I have never been able to understand about the holiday season. That one thing being, the vicious attitudes of people when they go out in public.

We celebrate Thanksgiving to be thankful for the things we are grateful for and the things that we DO have. Isn't it ironic that on that same night we go out and physically fight with people to get the gifts that we want? Until Christmas is over, malls and shopping plazas are overpopulated with nasty people who are so incredibly mean. I think that some people need to take a step back and try to remember what the holiday seasons are all about. It is important to be grateful for our family and that we are able to celebrate the holidays with. Christmas is about being happy and being joyful. I feel as if the true holiday meaning has been lost.

I hope that someday the true holiday spirit will come back instead of the materialistic ideas of the holiday season. Be grateful for what you have, and remember to be happy during the best time of the year! Happy holidays everyone!



This Month in History

By Zach Stewart

Many historical things happen throughout the year, but December has many important dates. Let's look at some of the important events that took place in the month of December.

December 7, 1941: The Japanese bombed the U.S. Naval base Pearl Harbor. The air raid consisted of about 200 aircrafts and it lasted a little over an hour, killing nearly 3,000 Americans. Pearl Harbor led to the United States declaring war on Japan.

December 13, 1862: The Battle of Fredericksburg occurred during the Civil War. The Union army was defeated and the army suffered from it tremendously, losing 12,653 soldiers. The confederates only lost 5,309 soldiers, making it a victory for them.

December 14, 1799: George Washington passed away at his home, on Mount Vernon. George Washington was the first president of the United States and also was a founding father which is what made this day so sad for many people.

December 18, 1916: The Battle of Verdun ended after ten months of fighting. The battle was a part of World War 1. The French lost 543,000 soldiers, while the Germans only lost 434,000, making it a victory for the Germans.

December 23, 1913: The Federal Reserve Act was passed by the U.S. Congress. The act made the Federal Reserve System the nation's central bank. The responsibilities of the bank are to influence lending and investing between commercial banks and to oversee the availability and cost of money and credit.

December has many historical events in it. These are the dates that have affected the past in major ways.



Source: <http://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar/december.htm>

Mall of America Money Man

Ethan Shaw

At the Mall of America in Bloomington, Mn. on Black Friday, a 29 year old man by the name of Serge Vorobyov was cited for disorderly conduct. He had taken \$1000 dollars in ones and let it snow from the 3rd floor.

Vorobyov had said that, "I wanted to do some sort of pay it forward kind of thing," and that it was his "last \$1000." He wanted to do something kind to start off the new year after going through a divorce and losing his towing business.

Bloomington police said that it had been a publicity stunt to try to get his wife back. The dollar bills were also stamped with the link to his youtube address to direct people to it. He had invited his wife to the mall, so she could see him throw the money to see how he is changing, but she did not show.

Sarah Schdmit a spokesperson for Mall of America had said that it was the first time someone had done something like this in the mall. Also that he disrupted the performance of the mall and could have caused a serious situation.

The Bells Are Ringing: Inside The Salvation Army

By Matt Sarbieski

During the holidays, members of this organization can be seen outside stores ringing bells near a red kettle, a gesture asking for donations. Rain or snow, The Salvation Army works tirelessly to collect money for a good cause.

The Salvation Army began in 1852 in England, founded by William Booth. He was a religious man who provided services to the poor. Booth also converted people who had a troubled past to Christianity, and it soon began to spread to America in 1879. The red kettle, a well-known symbol, was introduced in 1891. It was based on iron kettles placed at boat landings that people tossed coins into to support the poor.

It is in fact a religious movement, but it does not turn down people if they aren't religious. Their mission statement is, "The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination."

The Salvation Army does many things to help out, such as providing services around the world. They help with disaster relief and hunger and housing services. Also, they provide assistance during the holidays and work to combat internal issues such as human trafficking and finding missing people. The Salvation Army also provides other services around the world.

There are so many different ways to help out and get involved. You can donate money via the red kettle and provide other forms of financial support. Also, you can give item donations. They accept donations of cars, clothes, furniture, etc.

Volunteering is a little more complicated. The Salvation Army finds volunteers through the website <http://www.volunteer-match.org/>. There, local volunteer opportunities can be searched using the keyword, "Salvation Army."

For more information about this organization, its history, and ways to help, visit their website at <http://salvationarmyusa.org/usn/>.

Source: <http://salvationarmyusa.org/usn/>.

O.W.L.S. OF THE MONTH

Dessa Landry and Mary Widman for returning a \$100 bill they found on the ground.

Karissa Daigle for turning in a Visa gift card she found on the ground.

Andy Fearon for always trying his hardest.

Corinne Hennessey for her thoughtful endeavor of starting the Kindness Chain.

Pat Tighe for always making us smile.

Danielle Reynolds for spreading joy throughout the school.

Chris Robinson for maintaining composure and demonstrating how to solve conflicts respectfully.

Emily Farone for always being polite and helpful in class.

Rodney, Kevin, Mike and Jim for all your hard work throughout the year on our buildings.

Gerald Dow, George Paquette, Wayne Smith for working hard all year on our grounds.

Mr. John Fratiello and his cafeteria staff for their continued outstanding work.

Mrs. Adkins for being a sub in room 608 and being totally awesome! Thanks for filling in!

Mrs. Carolyn Morse, SOS team, Mrs. Libby and Student Council for all of their hard work and dedication to helping out those in need in our community and bringing wonderful events into our school.

Ray Goyette, Eric Bragg, Tony Furtaldo, Ryan Hayes Scott Legros, Renzo Puello, Don Renkus and his crew for keeping our school looking wonderful.

Mr. Galvin and his 2nd period class for picking up and moving from the writing lab to the library quickly and quietly when asked to move at the last minute! This was greatly appreciated.

Tessa Vrees for being kind and offering to erase the whiteboards for another teacher in her classroom.

