



## Students Inducted into National Business Honor Society

By Corey Mills and Cassie Lee

National Business Honor Society is fairly new to Timberlane. In its fourth year as a society, it has grown from last year with 5 students to 12 students this year. Run by Dr. Wendy Bibeau, Ms. Sue Takesian and Ms. Antoinette Desisto, this is the only National Business Honor Society in New Hampshire.

Wednesday, December 16, 25 was their induction, all the students are new to the Society. The induction was started by a speech by Dr. Bibeau, **“Our business department is very excited about the National Business Honor Society this year. We have more members than we have had in the past, and they are a great group of students. Timberlane continues to be the only National Business Honor Society in NH and this year we are participating in a competition through the Wharton School of Business. It will be a great experience for us.”**

The inductees were to stand up as Dr. Bibeau spoke out. The students then had to light the candles in front of them one at a time. Soon after, each student was called up individually by the president, to sign their name, receive their pins, and to receive their certificates. After all was said and done there was various desserts to enjoy and hang around for a little.

There are four officers, one being the President, Adam Chase. After the induction, Chase was asked how he felt about the Society as a whole, **“I’m very excited to count myself as a member among so many great individuals. It’s truly heartening to know I can call these people my colleagues.”**

The group has many activities to look forward to this year, one being the national stock market game. This will be the first group to compete in a national stock market game from Timberlane. During the stock market game, they will buy stocks to create a profit by utilizing various strategies. If the group scores highly enough, they will have a chance to travel to Pennsylvania to express their ideas and strategies to the Wharton School of Business. The Society has been split into two groups for the game and will compete among many other schools around the nation.

The National Business Honor Society is looking to grow in size as well as knowledge over the years to come.



**Pictured above:** National Business Honor Society Members  
 Back row from left to right: Justin Maguire, Corey Mills, Adam Chase, Arlyss Martin, Rachel Komenda  
 Front row from left to right: C.J. Bowen, Cassie Lee, Jessica Buckley, Colleen Donnelly, Jason Hughes, Thor Johnson

## Timberlane Basketball Buddies

By Ally Collins

Some of you may remember coming to the high school as a child and learning how to play basketball with members of the high school’s boys and girls basketball team. Well, it’s that time of the year again! On December 12th, the Timberlane Basketball program hosted its annual fundraiser, Basketball Buddies.

Basketball Buddies is a fundraiser run each year to raise money for Timberlane’s boys and girls basketball teams and has been around for the past twenty years. Boys and girls in grades K-8 can sign up to come to the high school to spend three hours learning new basketball skills from current high school players. For a small fee, participants receive a Basketball Buddies t-shirt, one on one interaction with Timberlane’s own varsity players, and get to have pizza afterwards while hanging out with the high school players.

This year, there were over 50 kids participating in the fundraiser. With such an impressive turnout, the high school’s basketball program not only makes a great profit, but the basketball program within the entire school district is strengthened. When younger kids get to interact with the older kids, they are likely to enjoy the sport more and will be willing to continue playing throughout their high school career.

Brandi Sickel, a fifth grader at Atkinson Academy shared her favorite part of the day, **“I liked learning new skills, meeting new kids, and hanging out with high schoolers.”**

Basketball Buddies is an event that all high school basketball players enjoy participating in. Brooke Rooney, a sophomore and member of the girls basketball team commented, **“It makes me happy to see the kids so happy.”**

The 2015 Basketball Buddies fundraiser was a huge success and was a great way for Timberlane’s basketball players to give back to the community.



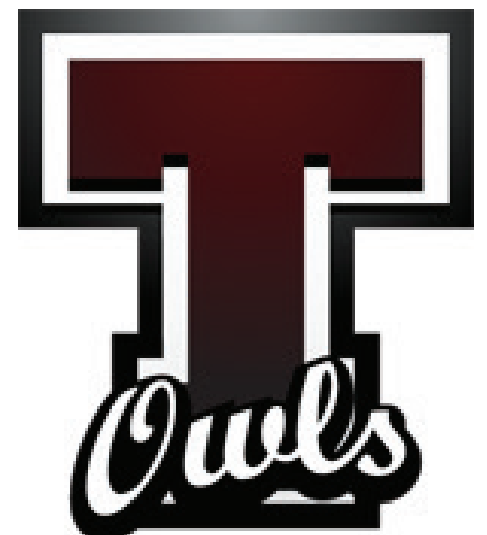
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### Our December Newspaper Staff

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## Laugh For a Cause

By Elijah Sorensen

A comedy show is a great place to let loose and laugh. The only thing that's better, is being able to do it for a good cause.

At the Timberlane Regional High School, a comedy show was held recently on December 2nd to raise money for Mealey's Meals. Mealey's Meals is a district wide service project that helps local families in need. Students from SOS (Students of Service) helped Mealey's Meals by selling tickets for the event. At the end of the night, the show was able to raise just over \$650.

The Mealey's Meals comedy show was thought to be a great success. Good attendance complemented with strong performances by the comedians really made the night special.

Mr. Mike Smith, the advisor of the Comedy Club at Timberlane, led the night and put forth two student comedians, as well as a professional.

The professional comedian hired was Shaun Bedgood. Bedgood is a local comedian from Boston, Massachusetts who has been a 2013 Boston Comedy Festival Finalist and New England's Funniest Comic Semi-Finalist.

He was a hit, and it was remarked by SOS leader, Meaghan Guanci, "Nowhere can you see a professional comedian of that caliber in a local venue like here at such a low cost- and it was all for a great cause."

The success of the event was truly a testament to the type of students and faculty that we have here at Timberlane. The people we have here are hard-working and generous. The countless hours they put into the making of events like these is second to none, while at the same time being for a good cause. Timberlane is a great community where we are able to help ourselves while helping others.

## Hair of the Month

By Julie Bertwell and Amanda Berry

"It's not just flow, bro... it's a lifestyle."

His thoughts about flow and passion for this lifestyle has earned Alex Passafiume this month's title of Hair of the Month. Passafiume's passion for his hair is unlike any other. His dedication has grown throughout high school and will never stop growing.

As captain of the hockey team, Passafiume knows it's a requirement to have some of the best hair on the team and in the school.

To get the flow, it's all about the product. American Crew Pomade to be exact, according to Passafiume. Passafiume has used this product for the past four years and it clearly does wonders for hair. He says it allows his hair to be soft, not greasy or crusty. Passafiume also points out that the product is highly recommended by his mom. If you want to know where to get this product, find out from the king of flow himself.

Passafiume explains how it feels to have flow in just one word. His answer was simply "flawless."

The hair game continues to create competition between the students of the school. Take some advice from Mr. Hair of the Month and improve your flow to prove yourself worthy of this title.



## Congratulations to our TOP THREE CLASSES for the Mealey's Meals Coin Collection Challenge!



**First Place:**  
Senora Allen's Spanish 3 ACC  
\$700.84



**Second Place:**  
Mr. Mancinelli's ACC Chemistry  
\$527



**Third Place:**  
Mr. Pasquini's Health I  
\$412.58

## As We Are -Student Literary Magazine

By Megan Bourque

Are you passionate about your writing or art work and want it to be published? As We Are is the perfect place to go. It is a club run by Mr. Taylor Roccapiore and Ms. Dessa Landry who take students work and publish it in the As We Are Literary Magazine for TRHS.

As We Are takes a variety of writing pieces. Most people think that just poetry is published but the group loves a variety of writing. From poetry to fiction to nonfiction to short essays, all is accepted. If you are interested in having your writing published, just talk to Mr. Roccapiore and he would be more than happy to take it. You can find him in the Writing Lab, Room 611.

As We Are doesn't just take writing, it takes artwork as well. From photography to painting to pottery, it is all able to be published. If there is an art project that you are just so proud of or even your own personal art work, you can go talk to Ms. Landry and see if the magazine can add your work. You can find her in Room 111.

As We Are is a great outlet to share your own creative work. This year, the club is going to try to put out two copies and is looking to have all work submitted by Friday, January 8th. Whether you are an artist or a writer, As We Are would love to have whatever you have to share. This is a great opportunity, so take advantage and get involved.



## It's More Than Just a Snack!

By Tafadzwa Zhou

Have you ever had one of those days when you're hungry but you don't want food, you just want a simple snack? Or maybe you have practice or a game and can't afford to eat a full course meal?

Well that's why TRHS has a Student Store located across from the cafeteria. This store is run by supervisor, Mrs. Linda Miller. You can find her in the special education classrooms or Room 317.

The employees who work at the student store are Celeste Sepka, Katrina Goals, Colleen Rosen, Troy Merrill, and Justice Nazario. "I enjoy working at the school store because I find it to be a lot of fun, also I like the fact that I get to talk and meet new people. This experience will also help me get a job in the future" said Katrina and Celeste.



The Student Store is open Monday-Thursday, between 2:15-3:00. I know what you're thinking, why don't they open during school hours? Well, the reason is that would cause conflict between the store and the cafeteria. There is a school board contract that justifies the reasons why both companies cannot be open at the same time. They don't want one store attracting more customers than the other because that would cause competition, which is unwanted.

The Student Store mainly sells snack such as candy, hot-pockets, mini pizza, pretzels, fried dough and a large variety of chips and beverages. They also sell Timberlane t-shirts and sweatshirts. So if you don't have any clothing that supports your school, I suggest you stop by and get yourself a shirt for a very good price to show your school spirit.

The School Store collects an average of \$200 a week and the money is funded towards scholarships. "It's a wonderful thing the school store is able to provide to students who look to enter the educational field," said Mrs Linda Miller.

## A "Power"ful Teacher

By Bethany Sargent and Jessica Buckley

This month, a special teacher stood out to her students and the Timberlane Community. Mrs. Christa Powers has done a phenomenal job connecting to her students while creating a learning environment that is enjoyable, as well as rigorous.

Powers has been teaching for 4 years, though she has always aspired to become a teacher, "I have always wanted to teach. When I was young I would play school with my siblings."

Her childhood dreams came to life after her graduation from Keene State College, but her leadership and work ethic came well before, "I taught dance for about 8 years and have taught at a child care center for 10 years," Powers explained. "I've always loved children and the interactions that come from teaching them something new."

Her enthusiasm about such connections are evident in the classroom, as well as a passion for teaching that shines through each lesson.

A core interest in Powers has always been the study of mathematics; it is a course that she teaches at various levels at TRHS.

"I do not have a preference in the math courses I teach. I enjoy the connections between different mathematical concepts and with teaching a variety of topics I can see the connection daily. Each class has a different set of students and a different personality which make each period throughout the day enjoyable in their own ways," Powers described.

Powers' love for mathematics shows through each course she teaches. Her knowledge in each class inspires students to work towards understanding and achievement.

Interaction with the material taught in class is one of the aspects Powers enjoys most about her job, "I love the quadratic formula and the chain rule because of the songs that go with them, they're so much more fun that way."

Kinesthetic learning, or learning by physical action rather than observation or note taking, is a popular style of learning and can really help make the difference to a student. By teaching her students to study by listening to a song or doing a dance, Powers is reaching out to students who learn better that way.

Outside of school, Powers spends the majority of her time playing with her son, as well as watching her husband play football. When she isn't busy grading, Powers likes to pass the time with scrapbooking and tap dancing.

Powers is an inspiration to her students and always encourages them to work their hardest, especially with subjects they may be struggling with.

"She always pushes us to do our best and teaches in a way that we can all connect to. She also makes class fun even when it's an AP class," Olivia Heffernan, a current senior taking her AP Calculus course praised.

Her teaching style and hard work really do pay off to her students.

Be sure to stop by and say hi to Mrs. Powers on your way to class in room 205! As a teacher who always has a smile on her face, she is always welcoming a new challenge any student provides, as well as assistance to any math impossibilities.



## NATO extends membership offer to Montenegro

By Nicholas Latter

December 2, 2015 was a historic day for the tiny Baltic state of Montenegro. NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) official extended an invitation to Montenegro to become a member state. If Montenegro accepts this offer, it will be the 29th member of the organization.

The Prime Minister Of Montenegro, Milo Djukanovic said that the invitation to join NATO was a big step for the Balkans region. The decision to officially invite Montenegro to NATO did not just appear out of the nowhere though, it has been under review for nine years. Montenegro has already actively participated in operations with the organization in the past including in Afghanistan. Montenegro has also already enacted several reforms to meet the criteria of joining NATO and is now more determined than ever to complete the process. The Prime Minister also hopes that the announcement will bring more changes to the Baltic region.

However, this offer has met stiff opposition from President Vladimir Putin and the Russian Federation. According to Russian state-run Tass news agency Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov “Moscow has always noted at various levels that the continuing expansion of NATO and NATO’s military infrastructure to the East, of course, cannot but lead to response actions from the East, namely, the Russian side in ensuring security interests and supporting the parity of interests,”

This resistance is not unexpected, especially with such heightened tensions between Russia and the Western Democracies over Russia’s involvement in the Ukraine, along with the annexation of Crimea and the recent bombings of ISIS in Syria. Russia stated that if Montenegro officially joined NATO, then all cooperation militarily and technical between the two countries would cease at once.

From the viewpoint of the international community, it seems it is very likely that even with all the threats from Russia, Montenegro will accept the invite from NATO soon.



## ISIS strikes the hearts of millions

By Justin Prak

A series of terrorist attacks occurred in Paris on November 13, 2015. These attacks consisted the use of bombs and firearms.

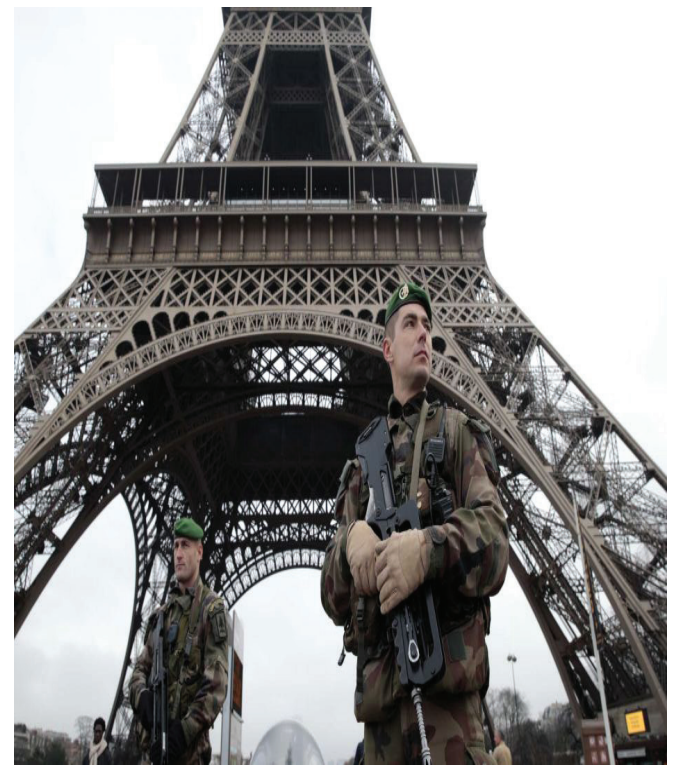
The location of the attacks were at restaurants, stadiums, and a venue. The first three bombings happened outside of the stadium called Stade De France. The attacks left 129 people dead and 130 critically injured. People considered the attack as an “act of war” according to President Francois Hollande in a press conference following the attack.

All of the targeted locations were populated with unarmed citizens. The restaurants that were attacked were Le petit Cambodge, Le Carillon, and Rue fontaine au Roi. Each place had an average of 10 casualties and more than 100 bullet shells were found in each location. the attacks happened nearly simultaneously, causing great fear for the French people. Many countries were upset because of the attacks and wanted to bomb ISIS or declare a stop on the terrorist group.

Soon after, French officials starting investigation of the case managed to find more suicide bombers planning another attack. A woman killed herself by suicide bombing, once French officials raided a hotel.

Although the attack devastated France, many countries gave its support such as Sydney Australia putting their lights to France’s flag. Timberlane Regional High School also made a flag that supported France and the flag stated, “ We stand with you,” which contained messages of love and support for Timberlane’s sister school in France.

Hopefully France is able to recover from this devastating attack and will be able to happily stand with all the countries to take down ISIS.



## The Zuckerberg Donation

By Ryann Bailey and Ally Ruth

If you’re reading this, you probably have a Facebook or know what it is. Facebook is one of the most popular social media websites used today. Only eleven years ago Facebook was created by a young man named Mark Zuckerberg.



In 2004, Mark Zuckerberg quickly became one of the richest people in the world off of his Facebook fortune. The billion dollar company has become worth more than large corporations like WalMart. However interestingly enough, Mark and his wife Dr. Priscilla Chan have decided to do something a little different with their money.

Last week, the Zuckerberg couple had a baby girl named Max. Together, they promised Max that they would donate 99% of their Facebook fortune to charities. This is a \$45 billion dollar investment into making the world a better place for their daughter. They look to put their money into, “personalizing learning, curing disease, connecting people, and building strong communities.” The pair has created the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, a company that Zuckerberg says, “enables [them] to pursue [their] mission by funding nonprofit organizations, making private investments and participating in policy debates- in each case with the goal of generating a positive impact in areas of great need. Any net profits from investments will also be used to advance this mission.”

Although Zuckerberg explains the positive intent of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, many people are skeptical. Critics are starting to question the couple’s motives which is creating controversy. Many believe that the Zuckerberg’s new company is just a way to make more money due to the fact that they aren’t sharing exactly where the money is going to yet.

This \$45 billion dollar donation is highly anticipated by people across the globe. I guess everyone will have to wait to see just how the Zuckerberg’s decide to invest in creating a better world for their new daughter.

## Winter Activities on a Budget

By Jayde O'Connell and Amanda Berry

Sometimes it's hard to find something to do when it's below freezing outside and you have barely any money in your pocket. Skiing is expensive, shopping is expensive, and the movies are too much money nowadays. However, there are so many indoor and outdoor activities to do that cost little to no money.

Layer up with snow pants, gloves, boots, a hat, and a jacket and head outside with your friends. Pick a backyard with a big hill, grab sleds and sled for hours. You can sled for a long time without getting bored and you'll be so bundled up that you won't get cold. If you aren't too fond of sledding, you can build a snowman or even build a snow fort.

Ice skating can be an indoor or outdoor activity. If you want a cheap skate, go for a ride with friends to the Icenter in Salem, NH. It's only \$6 for each person and \$6 for rentals if you don't own skates. The public skate time on Friday nights is 8:20 pm to 9:30 pm. Still not enough money for skating? Build an ice rink in your backyard using a tarp, water, rink boards, and just a few extra tools from your house.

If you're not a fan of the winter and don't like being outside in the cold, there are still lots of activities to do inside that are cheap too! For example, you can build a gingerbread house with friends or family; they're both tasty, fun and make cute decoration. Making cookies is another fun indoor activity. You can get creative and use different cookie cutters and decorate them to make them winter themed.

Whether you have \$15 or \$0, there is always something to do when you're bored at home in the winter. Sledding, snowmen, ice skating, and gingerbread house making, never fail to entertain. With a few friends or family, you can have fun in the winter on a budget.



## A Growing Winter Activity

By Austin Witley

Pond hockey is becoming a growing hobby for many New England residents during the winter.

One of the most profound and well-known pond hockey tournaments is the Pond Hockey Classic. The Pond Hockey Classic is found in many places including New England, Lake Champlain, Montana, and New York. The New England Pond Hockey Classic is held at Lake Winnepesaukee and has been continuously growing in popularity since its debut in 2009. The New England Pond Hockey Classic hosts hundreds of teams for all different age groups, making it fun for everyone to enjoy.

According to the Pond Hockey Classic website, one participant of the event stated that their favorite part of the Pond Hockey Classic was, "The atmosphere of the tournament was a lot of fun. Everyone I know there had fun being/playing there together to share the experience."

The majority of the participants had a strong positive experience, saying how much they loved the atmosphere of the event. It was a great experience for just about everyone where they made memories that will last a lifetime!

If you are not looking for competition and just want to have some fun with your friends, you also can play pond hockey this winter! Many people enjoy playing on a small pond in their neighborhood with some of their friends just as much as playing in the Pond Hockey Classic.



The love for hockey is growing rapidly all across the country and people are looking for a fun, inexpensive way to enjoy the game that they love to play.

Some avid hockey players even build their own rink in their backyard! It doesn't matter if you've ever played hockey before in your life, all you

need is a stick, a puck, a couple of friends, a pond or homemade rink, and you will have a good time. Whether it's on the beautiful Lake Winnepesaukee or just on your neighborhood pond, you're sure to have a blast when playing this fun winter activity!

## Best places to snowmobile in New England

By Zach Thibeault

The New England area is arguably one of the best regions in the United States for any type of winter activity. There is an abundance of snow along with the perfect landscape to make New England a great place to go snowmobiling, whether it be on or off of the trail systems.

The groomed multi-use trails start from St. Albans and end at the Canadian border, offering snowmobilers multiple scenic routes and many different types of terrains for thousands of miles. Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont are the best states in New England to ride through. Those three states offer 26,000 miles of trails alone.

Not only can you ride for miles on end, you can stop at restaurants and lodges along the way if you need a break. Patrick's Pub and Fireside Inn & Suites, both located in Gilford, New Hampshire are some favorite stops for snowmobilers making their way up north in the Lakes Region.

To find the multi-use trails to enter on, you can go to the fish and game website, <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/ohrv/index.html> to see safety tips, facts and brings you to the trail map. There is also a trail right in Sandown, which crosses by the Sandown town store on 121A. You're able to unload your vehicle in the dirt parking lot across from the town store and go out and ride some of the best trails in all of New England.

If you don't own a snowmobile, go out and rent one, to enjoy what New England has to offer during the winter months.



## Where to Go Skiing This Winter

By Nicole Marquis

Winter is just around the corner and you know what that means. Skiing is back in season. Skiing is an activity you can enjoy with your friends and family, and a great way to meet new friends. Here are some of the best places to ski in New Hampshire you can enjoy with friends and family.

1. Loon Mountain in Livermore, New Hampshire is a great place to go with friends and family. While at Loon, there are 61 different trail options, and 12 lifts



to get up the mountain. What makes Loon so special is its large variety of other winter activities, like Winter Zip lining, Cross Country Skiing, Snow Tubing, Ice Skating, Snowshoeing, and going to the Ice Castles. The lift tickets range from a price of \$20 to \$85 for day passes.

2. Pat's Peak, is a great place to go skiing with friends and family, and is a Timberlane favorite for both the ski club and ski team. From Plaistow to Henniker, New Hampshire it is only hour and 20 minutes which is one of the shorter drives. With 28 trails and 11 lifts, you will never get bored. Tickets range from \$38 to \$66 (half days to full days). Pat's Peak also has activities like tubing and shoe snowing.

3. Ragged Mountain is a family favorite with its different trails difficulties, so no matter what age you can go skiing. With Ragged Mountain an hour and half away in Danbury, New Hampshire, it is a short drive and is worth the drive. Ragged has 249 trails and 11 lifts, so no matter what, there is a different way down the mountain every time you go up. Lift tickets prices range from being free to \$79. Ragged offers some alternative activities including snowshoeing and tubing.

4. Cannon Mountain, one of the hardest mountains in the area to ski, is great for the more advanced skiers. The drive to Franconia, New Hampshire is 2 hours, which is a long drive compared to going to other mountains, but it is totally worth the drive in the end. Cannon has 95 trails and glades, and 10 lifts. Lift ticket prices range from being free to \$75. Another activity you can do on the mountain is snowshoeing.

5. Waterville Valley Resort is also a 2 hour drive to Waterville Valley, New Hampshire. Though being a bit of a drive, the travel time is worth it with the 50 trails and 10 lifts at the mountain. Lift tickets range from being free to \$77. Another things you can do at the mountain is go snowshoeing. Include cost

So get your skis and snowboards ready because these are the place you want to go this winter on your free time.

## Owls Puck: Road to the Verizon

By Bailey Schott and Jason Hughes

Going 4-14 in the past 2014-2015 hockey season, Owls puck is seeking to “make a statement” this season according to senior captain, Alex “Passy” Passafiume. With the help of new talent and several returning players, the Owls are considering themselves a playoff bound team.

Passafiume leads the birds on the crusade to playoffs this year. Coming off of a losing season can be tough, however, “hard work and dedication is what drives the motivation to make playoffs,” says Passafiume. This being his last year on the team Passafiume is striving to take his team as far as he can.

The team will have to rely heavily on “the experience and knowledge of the older guys,” along with a “positive mindset from everyone,” explains Passafiume. However, a new addition to the team, Junior Aaron Harmon, could prove to be a key player in this coming season. The Danville resident and Pinkerton transfer looks to step up as a newcomer and fill the role left behind of scoring sensation, Sean Crowley.



Owls Kyle Wood, Andrew Bedard and Matt Lancleve (Sleeves) are also returning to the ice this season. All three have played together in the past, giving the Owls a bit of chemistry. The Owls look to use their experience, chemistry, and leadership to drive them to the playoffs. The team’s goals are to be above 500 and make it to the playoffs. With twelve returning players, Owls puck is looking to have a successful year and one for the books.

## Shredding Into The New Season

By Jason Hughes

Coming off a strong 2014-2015 season, with the boys finishing 7th out of 16 teams at states, are looking to take home the title in the upcoming 2015-2016 season. With the help of new talent and several returning members, the Owls Ski team is looking to show the state what they are really made of.

Captains Austin and Travis Hall are looking to lead their team back to states and prove a point. Travis Hall is looking forward to the upcoming season, Hall said, “Can’t wait for the season to start and get on [the] snow after vacation. It looks like we are going to have a strong team this year and I have high hopes for the new freshman, Kyle Ericco, who should help the team drastically. As long as we can stay healthy we should have a successful year”.

New promising freshman Ericco has a great chance to help this team to victory. Ericco, who races competitively outside of the school’s team, should bring experience and another weapon to the ski team’s arsenal.

With the Owls only graduating 2 senior boys, the experience of their returners is really looking to help the Owls to victory. The team’s goals for the season is to win states and also have at least 3 members make it to the meet of champions. With both Halls qualifying for the Meet Of Champions last winter, Ericco should help with adding another member to qualify.

The experience of Captains Austin and Travis Hall leading the way, the Owls have a great shot at being the best in the state.



## Owl's Swarm The Court: Boy's Basketball Preview

By Eli Sorensen and Alex Passafiume

When the weather gets chilly, the court starts to warm up. The Owls boys’ basketball team makes its yearly appearance in the high school gymnasium.

Owls hoops didn’t have the outcome they would have preferred last year going into their first year in DII. The Owls had a losing record of 4-14 in their new division. However, surprisingly far better than years prior, considering the Owls had consecutive winless seasons. The Owls did not quite clinch a playoff spot, but many of their games came down to the end of the fourth quarter. The boys had strong performances from graduated seniors Tommy Johnston (TJ) and Danny Efraimson last year, along with current seniors Jason Hughes and Chad Ripley. These two returners will hopefully keep the Owls on track to make the playoffs in the upcoming season.

Senior Chad Ripley states “The cumulative goal of the team is to be a playoff team. We have to start the season off with a win and continue our success from there.”



This year, the Owls are hoping to turn over a new leaf and break away from their troubling past. The Owls hoop squad has had a rough few years, but this year looks to be their breakout season. Senior Bailey Schott explains that there are a lot of returning players that will give the team “experience and leadership.” Owls boy’s basketball is very optimistic going into their sophomore year in DII.

Division II competition will be very similar to last year’s remarks Schott. The Owls will play all the same teams as last year and will have their home opener against the Windham Jaguars. Despite last years losing record Schott mentions that, “[the team] has been playing together for five years now and believes [they] can be a top competitor.”

This revamped varsity team is ready for any competition coming its way. The Owls will face off at Coe Brown to kick the season off on December 18th, but the Owls hoops team will need the support of their fans on January 8th when they come home for the start of the new season.

## Two Games Down

By Corey Mills

The reign of the undefeated Patriots came to an end as they lost their first game on November 29, 2015 to the Denver Broncos 24-30, but the game wasn't the only thing they lost. Gronkowski, a tight end and a key piece to the Patriot's offense, went down with a knee injury late in the fourth quarter. Dont'a Hightower, a very important player on defense, was also sent out of the game with a MCL sprain.

Coach Belichick was disappointed in the loss but shows respect for his players,

"I was really proud of the way our team fought, I thought we gave tremendous effort and played really hard. Obviously, there were some things that we could have done better, could have coached better, could have played better. But guys really played hard, and I have all the respect in the world for this football team, the way they competed, so proud of what — the way they went at battle (Sunday)."

The following week, the Patriots took on the Philadelphia Eagles and lost 28-35. Although it looked like they were going to pull out a win in the fourth quarter, three straight drops by the Patriots receivers forced them to turn the ball over on downs. This brought the Patriots to a two game losing streak, bringing their record to 10-2, the first time the team has seen back to back losses since 2012,.

The loss to the Eagles made the Patriots drop from the first seed to the third seed in the AFC but a recent 27-6 win over the Houston Texans brought New England right back to the first seed. The Patriots clinched a playoff spot, a bye, and home field through the playoffs with this win. Every game from here on out is very important for playoff seeding for New England as they try to get themselves a bye week for the first round of the playoffs.

As the season pushes on the Patriots have to play with what they have and make the best of it.



## Journey to the Tourney

By Chad Ripley

With March being only a few months away, college basketball is heating up. With many competitive teams filled with talent, this year's college basketball season has certainly lived up to all the hype.

This college basketball season has had fans on the edge of their seats in anticipation for it to begin. The pre-season polls were released in early November, and atop the poll was North Carolina. UNC came into the season ranked #1 and high expectations for this team to do big things. However, the Tarr Heels started the season without senior point guard, Marcus Paige. Without Paige, the team won five games and lost one game to Northern Iowa. This loss had many people scratching their heads, but they were able to bounce back with two more wins before they, faced Maryland.

Maryland began the season at the third seed in the preseason rankings but entered into their game against UNC with the rank of number two in the country. The Terrapins, once an ACC team, recently moved to the Big Ten Conference, and these two teams would meet as one of the games for the Big Ten, ACC Challenge. The game between these two, was one to watch since neither team could take control of the game and deliver the finishing blow. That was until Marcus Paige of North Carolina took control (how?) and was able to put the Terrapins away with the final score of 89-81. Although this was a tough loss for Maryland, sophomore guard Melo Trimble proved that he is one of the best players in the nation, scoring 23 points and dishing out 12 assists. You can expect to see Maryland bounce back and remain in the hunt for a one seed in March, but in order to get that one seed, they may have to go through the Michigan State Spartans first.

Michigan State, to no surprise is having another successful season under Coach Tom Izzo. The Spartans are led by Senior Denzel Valentine, who is having himself a great year so far. Along with leading the team to an 11-0 start and the #1 rank in the country, Valentine is averaging 18.6 points, 8.5 rebounds, and 7.2 assists per game, nearly a triple double per game. In many people's eyes, Valentine is the favorite to win the Naismith College Player of the Year award, and for Michigan State as a whole, they are one of the favorites to win the National Championship this year.

As March slowly approaches us, look out for these teams including some others like LSU led by freshman sensation Ben Simmons, and as always Kentucky led by senior, Alex Poythress and a plethora of young talent for the Wildcats. If you plan on winning a March Madness bracket this year, I would advise some prior research, as the playing field is filled with competitive teams from every conference.

College basketball never seems to disappoint, and that is the case for this year.



## Activities to do on a Snow Day

By Vince Pigott and Brandon Dziedzic

You are home on a snow day, there are plenty of things to do. Many think snow days are just a wasted day with nothing to do; however, it all depends on how one views it.

Snow day activities vary from sleeping all day to helping Pa shovel the driveway. Depending on how heavy the snowfall, your TV might be working, so Netflix is always an option, along with putting in a DVD or hooking up the classic VCR. Snow days usually mean the holiday season is approaching, making a holiday Netflix binge the perfect activity. Some classic movies to watch are A Christmas Story, Santa Claus, It's A Wonderful Life, and A Christmas Carol.

Perhaps Grammy is cooking some Christmas cookies in the kitchen and needs some help. One could help her and get the cookie sheet and/or roll up the dough. It's always best to cook soup.

A classic activity is playing a board game with siblings or the whole family. There are plenty of wonderful games to play, but the one that holds the crown by far is Monopoly. This game is crazy and just outstanding.

All in all...The activities are absolutely endless.



## The History of Kwanzaa

By Ryan Reynolds

Created in 1966 by Dr Maulana Karenga, a black-studies professor at California State University of Long Beach, Kwanzaa was formed on the basis of bringing African-Americans together after the Watts riots in Los Angeles. Kwanzaa is a combination of harvest celebrations from many African-American tribes including the Ashanti and Zulu tribes. The name comes from the Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits."

One of the most important parts of Kwanzaa is the lighting of the Kinara. There are seven candles, one for each night of Kwanzaa. The first candle lit each year is the black one in the center. This candle represents unity, the most important principle of Kwanzaa. Each night, after lighting the candle, one of the seven principles are discussed. Each of these principles come from African culture and relate to growing stronger in community with one another.



The seven principles of Kwanzaa are unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Each of these principles has a symbol associated with it. The seven symbols are the crops, placemats, ears of corn, the seven candles, the candleholder, the unity cup, and the gifts.

Kwanzaa begins on December 26th and ends on January 1st each year. On the 31st of December, Karamu, a large African feast, is held. Celebrations of Kwanzaa vary among families but often include song, dance, and storytelling. Many families use African drums and other instruments as a base for song and dance. Stories often include folklore of the creation of Kwanzaa.

About two million people celebrate Kwanzaa each year in the United States and about thirty million worldwide. Although Kwanzaa is fairly new, it has already developed great meaning for many.

## Delicious Eggnog and a Festive Snowman

By Cassie Lee

Holidays are not complete without homemade food and drinks. However, finding the perfect recipe can be difficult. Here are two recipes featuring a traditional holiday beverage and cute dessert treat. Eggnog is a tricky recipe to make with many ingredients; nonetheless, it is a holiday favorite for many, served nice and cold to the family. The melted snowman is very festive and easy to make; it's the perfect dessert for a holiday party.

### Eggnog Recipe

#### Ingredients

- 4 c. of whole milk
- 3 whole cloves
- 2 ¾ tsp. vanilla
- 1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 12 egg yolks
- 1 ½ c. granulated sugar
- 3 ½ c. light cream
- Whipped cream



#### Directions

1. Combine together milk, cloves, 3/4 teaspoon vanilla, and cinnamon stick into a saucepan. Slowly stir ingredients on a low heat until it reaches a low boil.
2. Whisk together egg yolks and sugar into a large bowl until fluffy.
3. Slowly whisk together the hot milk and eggs.
4. Pour mixture back into the saucepan, stir mixture nonstop for 3 mins over medium heat, do not let the mixture boil.
5. Strain the mixture to remove the cinnamon stick and clove.
6. Combine the vanilla, cream and nutmeg to the mixture and refrigerate overnight.
7. To serve, top with whipped cream and sprinkle some cinnamon over top.

### Melted Snowman

#### Ingredients

- 8 oz. Cream cheese (soften)
- 1 package of Oreos
- 16 oz. white chocolate (melted)
- 48 Mini Oreos (bite size)
- Decorative icing

#### Directions

1. Finely crush oreos and combine with softened cream cheese in a large mixing bowl.
2. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
3. Create about 48(1 inch) balls and place on baking sheet pan and store in the refrigerator for an hour or until firm.
4. Dip each oreo ball until fully covered in melted white chocolate, allowing the white chocolate to pool at the bottom, giving the snowman a melted effect. Before the white chocolate hardens, place the mini oreo on the top as a hat. Place back on the tray and refrigerate for an hour until hard.
5. Use the decorative icing to create the face of the snowman.

Eyes: Two dots

Nose: A dot or a triangle

Mouth: Dots or a line in a smile shape



### Fun facts about Eggnog

Eggnog originated in East Anglia, England as a variation of posset, a drink during the medieval times with eggs in it.

Eggnog can be made without dairy by using soy, almond or coconut milk alternatives.

Over 135 million pounds of eggnog are consumed each year.

National Eggnog Day is Christmas Eve.



## Places to go over Winter Break

By Ashley Cioto and Olivia Heffernan

Winter break is coming up fast and I'm sure you are excited to take part in some entertaining winter activities. Figuring out where to go and what to do can be a struggle. These winter activities will be loads of fun for you and your family or friends.

If skiing or snowboarding are favorite winter activities of yours, Pats Peak is the place to go. Pats Peak has 11 lifts and one of the highest capacity snowmaking systems per acre in the Northeast. With 100% snowmaking coverage, Pats Peak guarantees great conditions all season long. It has a lot of variety, offering 28 trails and 9 gladed areas.

Bretton Woods ski mountain is another place to go skiing that has a lot to offer as well. With many opportunities including racing, guided ski tours, and much more, Bretton Woods offers many fun activities that are perfect for winter break. Bretton Woods is New Hampshire's largest ski area with 464 acres of skiing and snowboarding on 62 trails and 35 glades. Similar to Pats Peak, Bretton Woods offers night skiing and riding as well. If you enjoy skiing or snowboarding, Pat's Peak and Bretton Woods are great places to visit this winter break!

Another great winter activity that individuals of all ages enjoy participating in is ice skating. Not much skill is needed in order to have an afternoon full of fun on the ice. Many places in the area offer ice skates to be rented, so it's not necessary to own your own pair. If you have never been before, it may be embarrassing at first, but falling is normal and you'll soon get the hang of it!

Some favorite spots to go on this adventure include the Boston Common Frog Pond located in the city of Boston, MA. This area is a great hit because it is decorated with lights making it a beautiful place for a date night, family fun night, or just a time to have fun with friends. If you are looking for a more local place to get the same joy out of ice skating, the ICEnter in Salem, NH is also a fun place. The indoor ice rink offers public skating times throughout the winter months. If you are looking for a location that only takes a short time to get to, then the ICEnter in Salem is the perfect place. Put on your ice skates and be sure to take part in this winter fun activity.

Last, but definitely not least for winter activity fun, is tubing. Tubing is a high thrill activity that can be lots of fun, especially at places like Amesbury Sports Park and Cranmore Mountain. The thrill of spinning down a large hill against the crisp coldness is loads of fun for many, especially adventurous children. Amesbury Sports Park is a nearby location that can be great for an afternoon of fun if you just want to get away for a bit. The hills are great and the employees will always give great spins to get you going. Another awesome location is Cranmore Mountain in North Conway, NH. Although you may be tired after a long day of skiing, if you are up for staying at the mountain longer, then you'd have a blast tubing. It's a great time as long as you bundle up and are prepared to go against the chilly winter's air.

Whatever you choose to do this winter, be sure to check these great locations out. Be sure to bundle up and be prepared for the coldness, but also be prepared for loads of fun. You won't be disappointed!



## Places to Ice Skate

By Emilee Nathan

There are many different places to go ice skating. You can choose to either stay local or travel further to reach your ice skating destination.



The closest place to ice skate is the Icenter located in Salem, New Hampshire. This is a relatively common ice rink where hockey and figure skating take place. This rink is the home of the Timberlane Owl's hockey team as well.

The Icenter is open for public ice skating on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays with varying times. If you are interested in skating there, check the Icenter's website for the available public skate times. The cost is only \$6 for adults and \$5 for children.

Another great place to skate is on a local pond or lake. There are plenty of ponds and lakes located nearby. This is a cost effective way to have fun ice skating. Although, it is crucial to make sure that the lake or pond is frozen at least four or five inches deep before proceeding to skate on it. If there is snow covering the body of water, it is key to bring a shovel to clear that snow away. However, be sure to remove the snow after you check the thickness of the ice!

Lastly, if you're willing to drive a little further for an especially pleasurable ice skating experience, a fabulous rink is the Boston Common Frog Pond in Boston, Massachusetts. This iconic ice rink is set in the middle of the Boston Common and is open to the public during the winter months. The cost to skate is \$6 if you are fifty eight inches or taller, and free if you are under that height. Frog Pond is open seven days a week; 10 am to 3:45 pm Mondays, 10 am to 9 pm Tuesday through Thursdays, 10 am to 10 pm Fridays and Saturdays, and 10 am to 9 pm on Sundays. Skating on this manmade rink with family or friends will create memories that'll last a lifetime.

There are other ice skating places available, but these are just a few ideas that are almost guaranteed to provide a fun time. Go ice skating this winter, on whichever rink, pond or lake is calling your name!

## NH Ice Castles

By Olivia Heffernan

Are you planning to go on an adventurous and exciting winter trip in the near future? The New Hampshire Ice Castles located in Lincoln, NH would definitely be a top pick.

The Ice Castles are made from handcrafted ice by a company based in Utah. The entertainment company has four different locations across the United States, one of which happens to be in the great New England.

The Lincoln, NH Ice Castles are open from the end of December to early March. Open six days a week, the castles are a fantastic location to visit during a weekend up north. Lights illuminate the ice castles as families pass through. The interactive castle also consists of slides that little children will enjoy.

Tickets can be purchased online beforehand to reserve your spot, receive a discounted price, and make the trip worthwhile. Tickets online cost \$12.95 for a weekday and \$15.95 for a weekend. Tickets at the gate are \$18 for a weekday and \$20 for a weekend. Also, be sure to dress warm because you'll be outside in the frigid weather. Pets are welcome to venture through the castles as well. Make the most out of a weekend up north by also skiing at mountains close by including Loon Mountain and Waterville Valley. The castles are open in the evening, making it the perfect spot for a wintery date night.

"It was such a fun experience for my family and I," said junior Lily Ashford, "going through the various caves and sitting on the colorful seats throughout the castle made for a great time." If you're up for a two hour drive, it's definitely worth the trip to walk through the wondrous works of art!



## 5 Tips to Deal with your Family During the Holidays

By Nicole Marquis and Nicholas Latter

The holidays are right around the corner and you know what that means... it's time to hangout with the crazy part of your family. There's your drunk uncle and the aunt that always pinches your cheeks, but do not worry there are a solutions to dealing with your family during the holidays.



Wear something to cover your face to protect your cheeks from your aunt. Anything will do, a halloween mask, balaclava, or even a gas mask will work.

Make a meeting spot with the less crazy family members, so you can have a second to breath. You can talk about Auntie Susan and her plot to get revenge on her ex.

When you do not want anybody to know you are gone, put up a cardboard cutout of yourself to fool your family. They are going to be too into the holiday spirit to even notice if it is the real you or not.

Schedule a therapist for after the holidays. You are going to need it after you hear about your crazy aunt's cats.

Let loose and join in with your crazy family members! You only get to see them once a year, so what do you have to lose?

Spending the holidays with family can be tough sometimes, but do not worry, you will get through it. In the end, regardless of their crazy shenanigans, you are family and you love each other.

## The Merriest Movies

By Ryann Bailey

With December 25th just around the corner, Christmas movie binge-watching is in full swing. Over the years, countless classic Christmas movies have been made to spread holiday cheer during the winter season. Everyone loves a good Christmas film, but there are some that just top the rest.

If you ask around, most people will say they have seen A Christmas Story. This is a story about a young boy named Ralphie Parker and his ordinary struggles as a child. In particular, Ralphie longs for a "Red Ryder Rifle" for Christmas and constantly has run-ins with a bully. A Christmas Story is an uplifting, funny movie that never disappoints during the holiday season. Since this movie came out, kids around the world have been denied BB guns with the explanation that they're "going to shoot their eye out!"



Elf is another all-around favorite. Elf stars Will Ferrell as an elf that has stepped out of his comfort zone to spend some time in the Big Apple with his naughty-listed father. Out of place and a little confused, Buddy the Elf has funny experiences and encounters throughout New York City. The movie is stocked with hilarious quotes and scenes from beginning to end. Whether it's the mailroom dance party or getting in a fight with a fake Santa at a toy store, Elf has everyone laughing and in the holiday mood.

Another crowd pleaser is Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Although the original cartoon is a classic, Jim Carey's version is more entertaining for the whole family to enjoy. A modern spin on the classic story, Jim Carrey is funny in his role as the Grinch as he emanates displeasure against all things Christmas. How The Grinch Stole Christmas has amazing sets and props to create the amazing Whoville from the book. Everyone who watches this movie finishes it feeling a little merrier and with a heart almost three sizes bigger.

There are several more Christmas movies that are sure to make you laugh during the holiday, but these are just a few for the books. Be sure to curl up by the fire with some hot cocoa and enjoy these movies this winter.



## Top Technology Gifts of the Year

By Josh Battistelli

There's plenty to think about when buying gifts for anyone at anytime of the year. So many choices and you have to make sure you choose the best gifts. However, technology gifts are becoming more and more popular for today's consumers, but they do require some research to plan what you are going to buy.



For the gamers in your life, a brand new Xbox One or a PS4 would make the perfect gift. You can play games or watch movies on these systems. The Xbox One can even be voice controlled. These systems also have specific games that can only be played on them, for instance the Xbox has a game called Halo and the PS4 has a game called Uncharted.

Other new tech gifts could be a new phone that just came out or even a new blender. Technology isn't just about games it's mostly anything that plugs into an outlet. Tech gifts are in all different forms that have a plug.



My top technology gifts would be an Xbox, PS4, TV, or anything that i can play or watch tv on. I'd get any of these gifts for someone anytime of the year because they are really good and up-graded technology.

## Family Christmas Traditions

By Ashley Cioto

Christmas is one of the most celebrated holidays in the world where different families have their own traditions and ways of celebrating the holiday.

Traditions are very powerful and can mean a lot to a family. For one thing, they bring families closer together. Putting time and commitment into a tradition brings memories a family will have forever. Many of us maintain certain traditions during the holidays, whether it's putting up the Christmas tree, sending out Christmas cards, or decorating your house with colorful lights. Every family does their own tradition, making each family unique.

Senior, Meghan Tarr, and her family have lots of traditions during the holidays. On Christmas Eve, she and her sisters receive a special gift from her parents, "Every year on Christmas Eve my parents give my sisters and I matching pajamas to wear." This is Tarr's favorite tradition because after a long day she likes to get comfortable in her new pajamas. Also, it's exciting for her to see what the pajamas look like and she likes to take pictures with her sisters in them.



Another tradition that the Tarrs have is every Christmas her whole family comes to her house. Together they eat, celebrate, and open up presents from each other. Putting up a Christmas tree with lights and listening to Christmas music to get in the holiday spirit are some of the Tarr's family traditions as well. Every year, Meghan looks forward to continuing her family's Christmas traditions.

Senior Kailey Ross, has many Christmas traditions her and her family take part in. She and her family take part in a talent show every Christmas, "Every Christmas after our dinner, my whole family gathers in the living room and we have a talent show where anyone can perform whatever they want!" The Christmas talent show is a big event for the Ross family. It is exciting for Ross to see different talents from her family members every year. Last year, her older sister, Alicia, and her sang "Say Something" by A Great Big World.

Another tradition Ross and her family share is opening their stockings as soon as they wake up on Christmas morning. Kailey and her siblings have to wait to open up their presents in the morning, "We can't open up our presents until at least 8 o'clock or when our parents wake up." Ross enjoys the holidays and the Christmas traditions her family has.

As you can see, many families have different Christmas traditions that bring them closer together and create memories they'll never forget. Whether it's visiting a tree farm every year or baking holiday cookies, every family has their own way of celebrating the holiday. Learning about different family Christmas traditions can be fascinating and maybe even can give your family incentives to start a new one!

## Gift Giving Ideas: Tips and Tricks

By Alex Passafiume and Kelsie Collins

Christmas is a time for friends, family and tradition. One of the most prominent holiday traditions is gift giving. Christmas is a time for lots of laughs baked goods and the enjoyment of unwrapping a box of happiness.

Unwrapping gifts is far easier than determining what gifts to give, especially when it comes to your significant other. Kelsie and I are here to help you determine what gifts to get your boyfriend/girlfriend.

For that special young man in your life, clothes, shoes and electronics are three safe gifts. A great gift is all about showing thought. Think about what your significant would look good in and his taste. Patagonia and LL Bean are two very nice clothing designers that make quality clothing at reasonable prices. A basic crew neck or flannel would be a perfect gift for this year's Christmas. A shopping tip is to order the items off 6pm.com or visit the LL Bean outlets for discounted items. Finish Line also has a large variety of athletic shoes from running to basketball shoes, all at reasonable prices.

TJ Maxx has a great variety of electronics at nearly half the cost of items at Best Buy. Bluetooth speakers and headphones are all the craze of this year's Christmas.

A great meaningful gift for your boyfriend would be a multi picture frame. Pictures from past memories is a constant reminder of your compassion for one another. It also goes great for a bedside decoration. It is a very inexpensive gift that can last a lifetime and is interchangeable.

Anything homemade goes straight to the heart, instead of buying a Christmas card, make your girlfriend a homemade card, it's much more meaningful. Boys seem to think it's such a struggle to shop for us girls, but in all reality, when it comes to a girl, the more thought? The better. If you don't know your girl well, I suggest staying away from clothes because girls need to try on all the clothes they get because everything looks and fits differently.

Jewelry is always a good gift that's always put to good use; also it can be in your budget no matter what it is. Jewelry ranges from an \$8.00 ring to prices no high schooler should spend. Jewelry can always be added to top off an outfit and it's meaningful.



you have been together.

If you like to spoil your girl, anything Michael Kors is always a good idea. Also Michael Kors items can be available at an affordable price. Most bags go for around \$250 but there are plenty out there for \$80-\$120. Our local TJ Maxx and Marshalls are carrying real Michael Kors bags for around \$120. If you can't afford a bag, Michael Kors makes very nice wallets which run for about \$45-\$80.

If your girl already has a bag, you could buy her a watch. Watches run a little more expensive, but then again, she'd wear it every day. Most are around \$250, but if she would love it, and you love her, then it's worth it.

If you aren't one for spending a lot of money, another great gift is a heated blanket. Every girl loves the typical cuddle in bed to stay all cozy and warm on those cold winter nights. Who wouldn't love a cozy blanket giving you extra warmth and coziness? And she would go to bed every night, nice and warm thinking of the present you got her. Also, it's beneficial because it's one you can share for sure. Heated blankets run for anywhere from \$30 to about \$150 which is definitely affordable if you choose to get the more affordable one.

A nice gift card to a salon is always a wonderful gift. Girls love to get their nails, hair, etc. done. Buy her a gift card for any amount and tell her she deserves a relaxing spa day. This gift is one that'll leave your girl looking and feeling good.

A few good tips to keep in mind are that Christmas is not about gift giving or materialistic gifts; however, no one ever complains about getting a nice present. You and your significant other should set a price limit that is reasonable for you two. Along with that, take into consideration how much money you have and how long

## How to Make an Extravagant Christmas Light Display

By Ryan Reynolds

With the holiday season officially upon us, Christmas lights can be seen illuminating the houses and yards of many. Christmas lights can be enjoyed by anyone young or old, but if you want to enhance the appearance of your display, follow these helpful tips.

First, you need to decide which types of lights or decorations you want to use. There are many different styles of lights to choose from, whether you want colored or white, incandescent or LED. There are many other Christmas light decorations to consider including candy canes, snowflakes, trains, and even inflatable figures that can be anything from Christmas trees to snowmen or even reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh. While there are many options to choose from, it is important to decorate with the items you like.



It is important to consider the cost of Christmas lights. Quickanddirtytips.com's Amanda Thomas says that while LED lights are a bit more expensive than incandescents, they use about one-tenth of the energy. This means that if you decide to use a lot of lights, LED may be the way to go in order to save money on your electric bill.

The most important part of any Christmas lights display are the basic strands of lights. These can be used to create an outline of lights around your house, as well as any bushes or small trees you may have in your yard. Candy cane lights can be used to create walkways to doorsteps or to line the front of your house. Snowflakes are great for hanging in windows or on other surfaces of your house.

Other yard decorations, including reindeer, trains, snowmen, and inflatables, can be placed throughout your yard. Be sure to spread out the yard decorations instead of grouping them tightly together. It is important not to go overboard on one type of decoration such as inflatables. Filling your yard with large decorations will make the display look unorganized and throw together. Using your whole yard for decorating will allow for a better light presentation.

Use these basic tips for starting your display, but don't be afraid to take it to the next level. Everyone loves a bright Christmas light display, so make sure yours is the best around!

## Find Your Perfect Home

By Brooke Delahunty

'Tis the season to start browsing through colleges that interest you. It is time for high school students who plan on attending college to start looking and deciding what school best fits them. There is no better way to find your perfect college match than to go out and visit schools that interest you.

To start off your college search, you must first decide on the basics. Look into the location, size, education and any sports or activities you plan to participate in to ensure that college offers what's most important to you. Once you have the basics down, your selection will be smaller and you can choose between schools in your area of choice.

Signing up for a campus tour is simple. All colleges have admission offices that can help you plan your visit. Signing up on the school's website, emailing and calling the admissions office to make a reservation are all easy ways to plan your tour. Colleges are welcoming, which means you will most likely be able to visit on the day of your choice.

Here are a few tips on how to make your college tour successful and beneficial for yourself.

**Making connections:** There is no better way to get the truth about a college than to talk to students. Ask around and talk to students sitting or walking around campus. What do they like best about the college? What do they dislike?

**Explore academic departments and speak with faculty members:** You can learn a lot if you arrange a time during your campus tour to speak with a professor. If you already know what you want to major in, then speak to a professor in that major.

**Take notes:** If you are making the most out of your college visit, then you are certainly asking a lot of questions. You are not going to remember everything you hear, especially if you are visiting many schools. I suggest bringing a notebook and jotting down information that is important to you. This will make your college selection at the end much easier.

If the school you attended really grabbed your attention, but you still have an unsure feeling, there is no need to panic. Here are a few tips that will help you come to a conclusion

**Attend a class:** Are you interested in a certain major, but clueless on how the class runs? Set up a time to sit in a class that involves your major and get a feel for the subjects and lessons covered.

**Spend the night:** Many colleges offer students to spend the night in a dorm with a student host. You will be a student of that college for a day by following the path of your host student.

**Attend an open house:** If you believe you don't have to attend a college open house because you attended a tour, then you're wrong. I highly suggest you plan a college tour and schedule to participate in an open house. At an open house, you have the opportunity to experience and see buildings that you didn't see during your tour. You are also able to attend with many other prospective students. Get to know them and their opinion on the school and you never know, they could possibly be attending the school with you. An open house will contain sessions and you will be able to view buildings that you couldn't see on the visit. Last, but not least, if the college open house lasts quite a while, you will have the opportunity to eat in the dining hall.

Hopefully these tips will help you with your college selection choice. There will be a college out there that you will fall in love with if you keep searching through the internet and attending college visits. Hopefully these college search tips will be very beneficial and help you find your perfect home for the years to come.



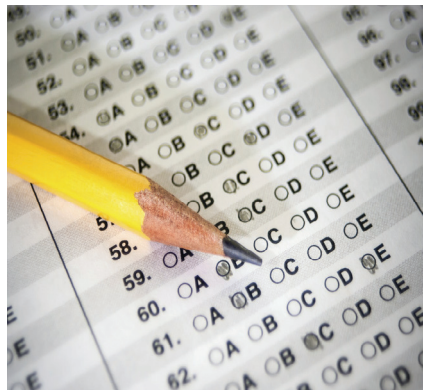
## How To Prep for The New SAT

By Ally Ruth

The new SAT has some of the biggest changes in over 30 years, and it's making its debut in March of 2016.

The new standardized test will be used for people who plan on attending college and will impact the class of 2017 and younger. There are a lot of new changes, including additions and take-aways from the current SAT. The research team that creates SAT tests are working to their full potential and closely monitoring the changes, making sure that all test-takers are aware of what the new SAT has in store.

The new SAT consists of changes in many different areas of the test. According to College Board, there are 8 new fundamental changes in the New SAT. Instead of having three sections of Math, Critical Reading and Writing Skills, the new test only has two sections which are Evidence-based Reading/Writing and Math. The length of the test depends on if the test taker decides to write the essay portion, which is optional in the new SAT but required in the current one. If test-takers do decide to write the essay, the new test is only five minutes longer than it is today.



Another major change is that there are only 4 multiple choice answers instead of 5 and if a test-taker gets an answer incorrect, there are no points deducted. In the new SAT, there will be a total of 152 questions compared to 170, allowing students to have more time for each question.

Although there are a lot of changes to the new SAT compared to the current one, preparing for it isn't much different. Test-takers should continue to focus on studying critical reading, writing and everyday high school math in order to be well prepared. Also, timing is key, so practice exams and the PSATs are still highly recommended. Understanding new concepts and becoming strong in certain areas takes practice, therefore test-takers should not wait until the night before to study for the SAT.

For anyone interested in learning more about the new SAT, visit [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org) or [princetonreview.com](http://princetonreview.com).

## How To Study for Midterms and Finals

By Amanda Savina

Studying for midterms and finals can be an extremely stressful time; however, it is crucial to maintain a clear head during these assessments.

First of all, do not wait until the last minute to begin your studying. Cramming loads of information into your brain at once will prove ineffective while taking your tests. Instead, pace yourself ahead of time to make the most out of your studying periods.

If you need an idea on where to start, begin by writing out a list of topics you need to review. This way, you will not feel overwhelmed and can recognize any weak areas. Try your best to work through the material without assistance. This will ensure that you have a solid understanding.

If you are struggling on your own, try Khan Academy! They have a very user-friendly app with helpful videos on a wide variety of topics. It is completely free as well!

Another helpful tip would be to study in a quiet and distraction-free area. If you do not have a place like this at home, consider visiting the library! It is filled with endless resources and offers a relaxing and stress-free environment. The librarians are also very friendly and ready to assist you in any way you need.



## Preparing for Prom

By Zach Thibeault and Kelsie Collins

As prom season approaches, so does the endless hours of shopping! For boys, it's a little easier but for girls, it's a nightmare. Some say a month or two is a good time to start shopping, but some start a good couple months in advance. There's multiple things you need to do to prepare for prom, such as saving money, buying your dress, buying/renting your tux, making plans, and of course, finding a date.

A Timeline for the Ladies:

Prom season can be very time consuming and stressful, especially for girls. With or without a date, you should start shopping because either way you should attend your senior prom and shopping takes more than a onetime trip.

You need to plan for a full day of dress shopping because every prom dress store is packed with girls looking for dresses. Now is the time to start saving cash, especially if you don't have help from your parents. After time, once you eventually have your dress, you may need to get it altered. Having something altered takes time, especially during prom season when almost every girl needs some alterations done. Plan on getting alterations at least a month in advance.



A month in advance, you should set up all of your appointments if you are planning on getting your hair, nails, and/or makeup done.. You don't want to be that girl that does her own hair because you slacked on making an appointment.

A Timeline for the Gentlemen:

Now for the boys, things tend to be a little easier and less time consuming. Your duty is to get a tux, a tie, and, a haircut. Finding a tux isn't complicated, although coming up with the money for it can be a hassle. Most tuxes cost in the range of \$300-\$800.

A hair cut for a boy takes at maximum 15 minutes, so you can save time that way but definitely make a hair appointment in advance because hairdressers are going to be extremely tied up on the day of prom!

Ordering a corsage? All you need to do is get the color of your dates dress and go down to the local florist shop Leith Flower, Plant & Gift Shop right on route 125. A corsage is going to be anywhere under \$25 depending on how you style it.

Transportation- Renting a limo? A typical way people get to prom is by limo, limos can be rented from \$80-\$110 depending on where you go, for about one hour. If you'd like to rent it for more than that, 2-3 hours the price would be \$65-\$90 per hour, again depending on where you go.

Who to bring?

For both genders, it can be a little stressful figuring out who you're going to prom with. If you're in a relationship, it's easy; but if you're not, it can be an issue. One of the best routes is to take a close friend- you are guaranteed a good time and don't have to worry about not having a date!

If the person you wanted to take already has a date, don't get too bummed, you'll still see them at prom! Finding a date sounds a lot more stressful than it actually is. It always works out in the end and remember, there's always someone else looking for a date too!

## Dear Irene

Dear Irene,

Every year I get a hand knitted ugly sweater that I hate from a family member that I love. How do I react? What do I do with a Christmas present that I have no use for? I'll take any suggestions.

Thanks,  
Long Fellow

Long Fellow, let me just be the first to say that Christmas isn't about the presents; it is about family and giving. It sounds to me like you're being a little bit of an ungrateful brat. However, I do know where you're coming from. We all get a present that kind of lets us down, but we don't want to make the person who gave it to us to feel bad.

In my experience, I have just put a smile on my face and, for the love of my family, pretended to like it. If you aren't as good an actor as I am, it may not work, though. Another action you can take is cry. We both know the sweater is so ugly that it makes you cry, so let those feelings out. Your family will instantly think you're crying tears of joy, but what they don't know is that you hate the gift. Once in the clear, you can simply donate the sweater to your nearby Salvation Army. It's a win-win; you get rid of that hideous article of clothing and you donate to a good cause, it's the best of both worlds.

My last piece of advice for you would to suck it up. If you love your family, you'll do anything for them, including making a fashion statement. Wear that sweater proudly. Let the world know, "I have an ugly sweater and I'm proud!" Be that person that doesn't care what people think about you who does whatever it takes to make the people you love happy.

I hope you find one of these methods to be of some use to you, Alex. Good luck with all your future holiday endeavours.

~ Irene



## Best Gift Ideas For Your Parents

By Emilee Nathan and Amanda Savina

Are you stumped on what to get your parents for the holidays? Don't stress, it can be easier than you think!

First of all, do not feel obligated to spend a certain dollar amount on gifts. Parents often appreciate small gifts that come from the heart. A handmade card or a simple gesture such as making them their favorite meal or cleaning the house are great options.

Mothers are relatively easy to shop for. A nicely scented candle or a beautifully crafted scarf are other ideas. Candles can sometimes be a bit pricey, so a useful tip would be to check out your local T.J. Maxx or Marshalls for high-end candles at low prices.



Jewelry is also a fool-proof gift that can make all mothers feel glamorous. While, it can be rather expensive, if you shop smart you can score a fantastic deal. Check out the jewelry departments at T.J. Maxx or Kohl's!

Fathers, on the other hand, may seem more difficult to shop for. Nonetheless, an excellent gift for them could be a sturdy mug. These are awesome for every father's morning coffee sessions.

Another idea is a simple t-shirt. Dads love t-shirts because they wear them all the time. This is a gift you just can't go wrong with, but be sure to get the right size. If you are unsure of the size, you could always ask your mom because she most likely knows. Amazon and think-geek.com have funny and unique t-shirts if you're interested in this gift idea.

Holiday shopping does not have to be stressful. These are some wonderful ideas to get your parents sure-fire gifts they'll love. Follow these simple tips and you will be done shopping in no time!

## Creed is a knockout!

By Jacob Donovan

If you loved the classic Rocky movies from the past, then you will fall for Creed.

Ryan Coolger directs this movie to perfection and sky rockets the Rocky franchise with the production of Creed. In the past, Sylvester Stallone wrote the stories behind all of the Rocky movies, but this time Coolger stepped up and took over. This movie is great for anyone. You don't need to have seen all the Rocky films to appreciate this outstanding movie.

The film is about Adonis Johnson, the son of boxing legend Apollo Creed who dies in a boxing match in Rocky IV. Adonis was born after his father's death and he wants to continue in his father's footsteps in boxing. He hopes to have Rocky Balboa as his mentor to train him and help him become a great boxer like his father. Throughout the movie the story follows Adonis's life and the obstacles he has to overcome.

IMDB rates it an 8.6 out of 10. It is an all-around great film and I would give this movie a 9 out of 10. The movie has already raked in over 65 million dollars this year and is a must see for the whole family.



## PsychoLOGICAL Effect

By Chad Ripley

Overshadowed by mainstream rappers like Drake, Future, and G-Eazy, Robert Bryson Hall II, otherwise known as Logic takes the prize of Rapper of The Month. With his recent album 'The Incredible True Story' that dropped on November 13, 2015, Logic has once again wowed listeners and you can be sure to hear it being talked about around the school.



Logic, a once small rapper from Maryland, has now risen in popularity within the last couple of years. In October of last year, Logic released his album, Under Pressure, and although he had many mixtapes before this album, this is what put Logic on the map. With his unique style and flow, Logic differs from many of the modern big name rappers.

The Incredible True Story tells a story about how the earth is no longer suitable for life anymore, and the journey of two men as they travel to the planet, "Paradise." The album debuted at #3 on the Billboard Top 200, selling well over 100,000 copies in the first week. This nearly doubled the amount of copies his freshman album sold in the first week last year.

Before the release date of his album, Logic released three singles from it, those being "Young Jesus" on September 22nd. Then on October 14th "Like Woah" was released, which is one my personal favorites on the album. Lastly, he dropped "Fade Away" on November 5th, eight days before the release date of his sophomore album. With the success from the his first album, this one was highly anticipated by fans of rap and hip hop and also fans of Logic.

In a constantly changing rap and hip hop game, Logic finds his motivation in old school rap groups like Out-Kast. Logic, a true lyricist is constantly telling life stories within his music. In Logic's song "Growing Pains III" in his Under Pressure album, he says, "That welfare check, won't ever bounce like my daddy did but I'm glad he did cause it made me strong made me help somebody with this song paint the picture of my life growing up what it was like Section 8, grab a plate food for thought, gravitate food stamps, social services tryna take me away my mama locked up, I pray to god that I see her today." In many of Logic's songs you hear references to his childhood and his tough time growing up in a bad part of Maryland, living around drugs and violence.

If you are a fan of rap and hip hop, do yourself the favor and listen to Logic. I can guarantee you won't regret it. All of Logic's music can be found on iTunes, Spotify, etc. and his mixtapes can be found on YouTube.

## Kicks of the Month

By Stone Cashin and Noah Arteaga

With the busiest shopping day of the year occurring, there some major releases in the shoe world on Black Friday, as well as through the month of November.

The competition between whose line is the best is between the adidas Yeezy Boosts Moonrock 350s and the new hologram foamosites. The difference between both of these sneakers would be the price range. The price range for the Yeezy Boost moonrock 350 is between \$150 and \$200. The price range for the Foamosite One Holograms is only between \$350-\$400. When considering which is the best shoe of the month price range is definitely a factor.

The Hologram Foamosites were released November 25th for a retail price of \$250, which is generally higher compared to most shoes. The shoe is a metallic silver color but holds an embellishment of a rainbow, like hologram on the side of the shoe, depending on how the light hits it. Definitely a head turner but are they appealing to the eye? According to kicksonfire.com, 6/10 people asked about their opinion on the shoes said they were not the type of shoes they would wear and they didn't like them. The other 4 said they liked them but the price was outrageous.

The Yeezy Boosts "Moonrock" 350s were released November 14th for a retail price of \$200. A reasonable price for the shoes that were designed by Kanye West. These shoes have a unique design to them with a rigged flyknit material featuring a grey "moon" colorway. Also the shoes are unique because this is the first time the Yeezy brand has released low cut Yeezy shoes.

Comparing both of these shoes, the Kicks of the Month would have to go to the Yeezy 350 boosts. Although the hologram foamosites have an interesting rainbow design on the side of the shoe and only go for \$250, the all around the design of the 350 boosts are just better and more unique and retail at a lower price.



Pictured above: Hologram Foamosites  
Pictured below: Yeezy Boost Moonrock 350s



## Has Technology Gone Too Far?

By Derek Short and Tyler Furey

In modern day culture, the world revolves around technology. Human communication suffers because people opt towards indirect means of communication through phones and social media.

People check up on virtual reality that doesn't matter. Technology can be very useful, but the way humans use it, it has become much more distracting than useful. There are many effective internet websites if used correctly. However, there are also a lot of that have no purpose at all. Instead of technology being a useful tool, it has become a pastime for many people.

There are many negatives within technology. Cyber bullying has been a problem for quite some time because people take their fake identity too seriously. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have become apps to reveal your "good times" that is attached to your profile. It can be a useful tool to either connect or interact with people you don't see in real life. But without the balance of real life and technology, one's mind can be brainwashed. Checking up on their devices every single second and not interacting with anyone will change the future generations dramatically.

Social skills are declining with the usage of technology, as face to face interactions and conversations are becoming something of the past. Now that technology is more present than it ever has been, people would rather interact through a phone call or text. This has greatly impacted people's social skills, and making face to face interactions awkward and unenjoyable.

Overall, technology is being used for more bad than good. Although it can be very helpful, the useful side of technology is much less used than the social life.

## Black Friday vs Cyber Monday

By Meaghan Pelletier

Black Friday and Cyber Monday seem to offer the best deals when it comes to the shopping season, but is one better than the other?

The answer depends on what you're looking for. Some items such as electronics can be found at extremely low prices on Black Friday, while others such as clothes come at an even lower price on Cyber Monday. Putting products aside, which day seems to be better?

On Black Friday, buyers have the opportunity to try on clothes and see products in person, something that can't be done on Cyber Monday.

"More than 60 percent of shoppers prefer to shop in-store," according to Abigail Wise from realsimple.com. "For some, Black Friday is a tradition of early rising and massive sales."

In-store shopping also eliminates the shipping fee. Once you buy a product, it's yours. You don't have to worry about waiting for it to arrive or paying the extra money to get it shipped directly to you.

Waking up at 4 a.m., however, can be a major drawback. Many stores this year opened around 5 p.m. or earlier on Thanksgiving which made it difficult for buyers to go out due to the fact that it cut into their family time. Also, many prices may drop as the holiday season continues, so it's very easy to overspend, and not to mention it's extremely crowded. It seems that with every year, more and more people are deciding to keep it safe and stay home on Black Friday.

Just this year alone, online shoppers spent "a record-breaking \$4.45 billion," Lea Rao from thefortune.com states. Online shopping seems to be easier and faster, and buyers can quickly compare the best prices online, something that can't be done efficiently in the store.

It comes down to personal preference. If you're the type of person that would rather not deal with large crowds and early-bird rising, then Cyber Monday is perfect for you. However, if you enjoy the thrill of battling it out in the store to achieve the best deals on merchandise, then Black Friday may be what you're looking for.

Whether you prefer Black Friday or Cyber Monday, be sure to keep in mind that as the holiday season continues, the best deals on products may be just around the corner.



## Taking the Juice Out of Sports

By Travis Hall

Steroids have been used for decades to help treat patient with different ailments and have also been used to provide an advantage for athletes in their respective fields. What most people don't know is that there are two types of steroids, cortico and anabolic.

Corticosteroids are the types of steroids that doctors prescribe to help with inflammation, regulate sodium concentrations in the body, and serves to regulate the stress response system in the body. Anabolic steroids on the other hand are genetically developed to increase the testosterone level in the human body.

Many weightlifters or bodybuilders use this type of steroid to enhance their performance in the weight room to gain more muscle for shows or lifting events. The muscles that they grow are real muscles but how they develop legs the size of tree trunks or backs too big to fold their arms down is far from being natural.

Timothy Noakes, Discovery Health Professor of Exercise and Sports Sciences, says "When used by fully trained, elite athletes, steroids can improve performance to a much greater extent...Scientifically based training regimens, special diets, and complex physiological and biomechanical measurements during exercise and recovery cannot match the enhancing effects of drugs."

The use of steroids creates an unfair playing level for competing athletes. A natural elite athlete will not be able to compete at the same level as a genetically enhanced elite athlete. The use of steroids is basically cheating to be the best in their field. Elite athletes train every day in order to better and work out the flaws in their game. However, a steroid user can easily cover up these flaws by having the advantage of strength and endurance to power their way through an event.

Take baseball for example. Barry Bonds broke the home run record in the MLB previously held by Hank Aaron. Barry Bonds was able to hit more homeruns in a shorter time frame than Hank Aaron due his steroid use. Hank Aaron had to use pure mechanics in order to hit the amount of homers he did whereas Barry Bonds could rely on his strength to put them over the fence.

Steroids need to be taken out sports as an entity. Although the excitement for many of the games will be increased, and players will be competing at a higher level of performance and breaking records, the risk involved for not only the user but the opponents as well can be extremely dangerous. Chronic use of steroids causes severe mood swings, large amounts of acne, stunted growth in youths, reduction in reproductive organs, liver damage, heart issues and many more life threatening effects.

How would you like to go up against your opponent during a football game, a track race, a rugby match, a hockey game, a basketball game or even a baseball game when you know that they have been using steroids to get bigger, faster and stronger than you. Quite frankly, you wouldn't. You would be oversized, out match and your chance injury during a contact sport dramatically increasing because of the size advantage alone. You would be crippled by your opponent.

So I ask you, why are steroids still being used in sports today? After all, it is cheating and no one likes a cheater.



## Something Special: Looking Back on the Owls 2015 Football Season

By Travis Hall

"I remember sitting in the film room at 3 o'clock in the morning and telling the coaches, just stick with it because it's going to be this class that will save the program," Fitz says, looking at each of us individually. He continued with other details and motivated us to go out and get a win.

The game was back and forth the whole time, but unfortunately, we ended up losing the game. It may not have been the outcome that we wanted, but the coaches were highly satisfied with our efforts throughout the game and once again proved to them that we had a chance to do something special.

As the season progressed, it seemed as though the hopes of going to the playoffs was beginning to fade away. We defeated the next two teams which included Londonderry and Portsmouth, but when it came to playing Salem for our third home game in a row, it seemed like we shut down as a unit. We didn't play like our normal selves.

After a rough 17-7 loss against a strong Salem team, we realized that we were going to have to win out the rest of our games in order to make it into the playoffs. This season happened to be a particularly strong season for the teams in the East and South and finishing with a 5-4 or even a 6-3 record wouldn't be good enough to get in. With this in mind, looking ahead into the schedule we had to beat Winnacunnet, Merrimack, and undefeated Pinkerton, which would be no easy task.

This first game to start our streak was against the powerful offense of Winnacunnet. Going into there, we were highly prepared, especially on the defensive side because we knew where they were going to run it. This insight that we had on the Winnacunnet offense would prove to be the key factor in shutting them down. This was a big win for the team because it got us back on track for the second half of the season.

After an easy week against Dover, our efforts were refocused toward Pinkerton who had just lost their first game after having a 17 game win streak. This was going to be the biggest game of the season not just because it was the next game but because this game would determine whether or not they would make the playoffs.

Pinkerton opened up with a 14-0 lead on their first two drives but we battled back. A few touchdowns and a late pick 6 sealed the deal to a comeback victory by the Owls. The victory that we achieved that night was one of the iconic wins on the season and was the turning point for the team.

It was at that moment after the win, that we knew we had a legitimate chance to go to the playoffs, an opportunity that has never been presented to the Owls since they moved to Division 1 and hasn't happened since 2011. Not only did we think we had a chance to go to the playoffs but possibly make a run at a championship, a feat that was last done in 1999.



We ended the season on a high note defeating Merrimack with a shutout win, 24-0. Our overall record was 7-2 which was surprising to most teams in the league considering we hadn't won more than 4 games in a season since we moved into division 1. Fortunately, a record of 7-2 was good enough to get into the playoffs as the fourth seed and we accomplished one of our season long goals.

The day of the game quickly approached and we were all so excited to explore uncharted waters of the post season. None of us had ever been in a situation like this in football so we were unaware of what the atmosphere would be like. Come game day, we had put in the practice time and film time and we were ready to go out and beat Pinkerton once more.

Unfortunately, we wouldn't be the team on top when the game clock struck zero. The Astros beat us 23-17 that game after sealing it with a late 4th down hold on their own 17 yard line.

"It hurts to see how close we came to winning that game, but that's just how the cookie crumbles. We can't just hang our heads on this one game. We had a phenomenal season and there is always going to be the would've, could've, should've but we can't change it. I am really pleased with the way we ended our high school careers," said Jason Hughes, a three year varsity starter for the Owls.

The trip that us group of young men have made throughout our careers has been remarkable. We've been on an amazing ride and have truly made a difference in the program moving forward. Each year, this group has improved as a unit and although our time with the Timberlane football program is finished, many of us will come back to continue to serve their time with the team.

## A Special Thanks to the Timberlane Community...

Over the course of the last month, Timberlane took on its annual Mealey's Meals drive to raise money and clothing for families during the holiday season. Due to the efforts of so many student groups, like Students of Service, Student Council, the Comedy Club, the Milkmen, and the Music Program, who held a variety of fundraisers throughout the months of November and December, along with the generous donations made by students, staff, community members and businesses, we are happy to announce that we have exceeded this year's goal to raise \$10,000! As a result, over 125 families within the district have been helped this holiday season. Our Mealey's Meals fund is year-round and will continue to help families in need. If you would like to make a contribution at any time of year, please send a check payable to TRHS and write Mealey's Meals in the memo.



Pictured above: Students of Service members, Bethany Sargent, Paris Geisler, and Colleen Donnelly, showcasing the gifts they wrapped for Mealey's Meals recipients this holiday season.