

Paw Prints

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Harrington
Middle School



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The History of Toys for Tots By Brooke K.

As you know, at Harrington Middle School this holiday season, there are bins placed throughout the building for an organization called Toys For Tots. You are encouraged to place new games, CDs, DVDs, books, makeup, sports gear, and other toys that a child might want for their holiday. These toys are generously donated to children in need so that everyone can get a present this holiday season.

It is a wonderful organization, and it makes you wonder- what was the match that sparked this amazing idea?

In 1947, in Los Angeles, California, Major Bill Hendricks of the United States Marine Corps Reserve, or USMCR, started the organization after his wife, Diane, sewed a "Raggedy-Ann" doll, and requested that her husband try to donate it to a children's hospital. When Hendricks returned to inform his wife that there was no program for donation of toys to the needy and sick children, she suggested he create one. That is when the idea for Toys For Tots was born.

The 1947 pilot project became a huge success, collecting over 5,000 toys for children in the local hospital. In 1948, Toys For Tots became a nationwide campaign, and nearly every community in America with a Marine Reserve Center collected toys for children in hospitals whose families could not afford toys to give them for the holidays.

Because Bill Hendricks was the Director of Public Relations for Warner Brothers studios, he could convince many celebrities to aid Toys For Tots. In 1948, Walt Disney designed the train logo for Toys For Tots. Toys For Tots has been promoted by cultural stars such as Peggy Lee and Tim Allen, as well as First Ladies, Nancy Reagan and Barbara Bush.

The Marine Toys For Tots Foundation became an official national organization in September of 1991, and has ever since been trying their very hardest to put holiday present in every American child's hands ever since.

So, from December eleventh to the fifteenth, we encourage those at Harrington Middle School to donate a gift to children in need so every child can have a piece of holiday cheer.

Happy Holidays!



The Last Jedi: What You Need to Know! (and what you don't)

By Jacob Karl

The upcoming addition to the new trilogy of George Lucas's Star Wars, comes Episode VIII: The Last Jedi, featuring a truckload of lore, history, and plenty of cool new treats. But what treats? Well, allow me to enlighten you, young Padawan. First things first, Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) actually plays a role besides staring at Rey (Daisy Ridley) holding out Anakin's lightsaber for fifteen hours. Returning characters, Supreme Leader Snoke (Andy Serkis) and Captain Phasma (Gwendoline Christie) gain better character development as well, as can be seen by Snoke's appearance in the trailer when he tortures Rey, and Phasma's appearance in the trailer where she prepares to battle Finn (John Boyega). Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac), the debonair X-Wing Pilot from the previous movie also makes a return, fighting alongside a new character, Rose Tico (Kelly Marie Tran), under the command of General Leia Organa (Carrie Fisher) in their endeavors of fighting off the First Order. Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) comes back as well, as the audience will be receiving much more insight into his character arc.

So, now that everything you need to know is dealt with, let's talk about Star Wars facts you would've never even imagined until now.

- Those cute little animals seen in the trailer to The Last Jedi are known as Porgs! (continued on next page)

- While R2D2 is one of the cutest fictional robots in history, R2 just so happens to be played by a 3'8 Scottish man named Jimmy Vee!
- In A New Hope, Chewbacca is said to be 200 years old. Imagine how old he is now!
- English in Star Wars is referred to as "Galactic Basic." This is to not only separate the Star Wars galaxy from our own, but to remain flexible to any translations to foreign languages.
- Remember that fat slug from Return of The Jedi, Jabba the Hutt? Well, in the non-canon extended universe, there was a Hutt Jedi named Beldorion, who turned to the Dark Side and was eventually defeated and killed by Leia Organa!

Fun Fact with ya boi, Sweet and Spicy Oatmeal

Back in 2015, Henry Selick, director of *Nightmare Before Christmas* confirmed it was a Halloween movie. Just because It's a Halloween movie, doesn't mean Christmas can't be terrifying! Just take a look at Krampus, the evil anti-Santa, who is said to punish bad children by swatting them (no, he doesn't send the SWAT team to their house, that's different) and taking them to his "lair." What's worse, is that he's a COMPANION of everyone's favorite gift-giving fat man, Santa. Yikes! This monster is friends with the man who sees you when you're sleeping and knows when you're awake! You tell me that isn't terrifying! And here's the icing on the cake: he's not the only one! There's also the witch Frau Perchta, who is said to punish the sinful by ripping out their internal organs and replacing them with garbage! You'd best hope you stay on the nice list, ladies and gentlemen, otherwise, you'll be getting a whole lot more than a lump of coal!



Bah Humbug

By Ryan B.

The holiday season is "supposed" to be the jolliest time of the year and to a certain extent it is. However there are a couple things that happen this time of the year that simply ruin the festivities. This year I am following the ways of Ebenezer Scrooge and calling out all of the things that just ruin my holly jolly. Here are some "Christmas Catastrophes" that everyone can probably relate to:

1. *Bad Gifts*

An ugly sweater that doesn't fit you, a video game for the wrong console, or anything that you did not want for Christmas. Many children have been plagued by this horrible tragedy and believe me, it hurts. Bad gifts top my list of "Christmas catastrophes", in fact a multitude of charities have been opened to support kids who got socks for Christmas.

2. *Cousins... Lots of them*

Cousins can be pretty weird sometimes and I know this may sound mean, but I could definitely go to a party without them. While some people have annoying cousins their age, I am referring to your younger, bratty, cousins. These...these.... animals have the uncanny ability to ruin even the best of parties. If you don't have a cousin just replace it with your friends annoying younger sibling. They will follow you forever and once you're their target there is no escape. The worst part is when they ask if they can play with you and god forbid anyone who crosses them. In fact if you take their toy they will kick and scream and punch. One famous attack was known as the kidnapping of 1995 where a fourteen year old boy was found bleeding in a Wawa dumpster after accidentally breaking his younger cousin's lego set by accident.

3. *The Radio*

This one is probably the most relatable, as while Christmas music can help us get in the mood for Christmas, it can also become incessantly irritating way before the season is over. Stations start playing holiday favorites WAY TOO SOON. A prime example is the station 101.1 which plays non-stop Christmas music starting in November! We haven't even carved our Thanksgiving turkey yet, and they are "Rocking around the Christmas Tree". Listening to this station for too long can cause many long term effects ranging from loss of hearing to a deadly disease known as Jolly Syndrome. People who listen to christmas music before the month of December are especially prone to Jolly Syndrome. Symptoms involve over consumption of cookies and eggnog, redness around the cheeks and nose, and extreme cases of diarrhea.

Good luck to you all and Happy Holidays!



New Teacher Spotlight

by Arushi P.

Miss Johnson is the newest addition to Phoenix 7. Before she came to Harrington, she was a long-term substitute in Southampton. She was in for a teacher who was on maternity leave and worked there from the end of January to the end of the year.

Miss Johnson loves Harrington so far! She really enjoys the sense of community. Even though it's a big school, the halls give you opportunities to make friends and stay together. She likes that a lot.

Outside of school, she really likes to be outside. She has a dog, and loves going to the dog park and letting her play. Her all-time favorite book would probably be the seventh book of the Harry Potter series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. When she was younger her favorite subject was language arts, because she loves writing and expressing creativity, and she is always looking for an excuse to read.

Holiday Word Scramble

By Danalli B.

Get a good brain tease this holiday season with this word scramble!

1. sdl'nace _____
2. nimchye _____
3. stfig _____
4. oyljl _____
5. rermj _____
6. tpyra _____
7. bonirb _____
8. xvnie _____
9. Ysto _____
10. theawr _____
11. ntiwre _____
12. gnitoscks _____



Holiday Riddles

What is Frosty the Snowman's favorite breakfast cereal?

Frosted Flakes

What happened when Santa got a sore throat?

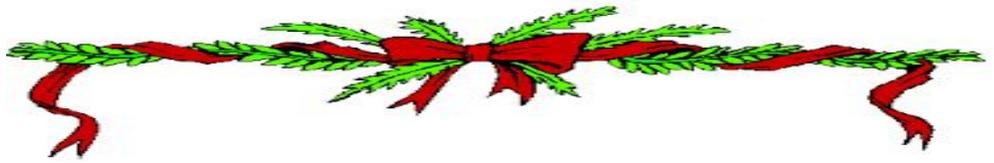
He had to have his TINSELS taken out.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

Frostbite

What is the difference between Hanukkah and a dragon?

One lasts for eight nights; the other simply ate knights.



Holiday Movie Blockbusters

By Jason G.

Looking for a good movie to see over this winter break. Well, grab some popcorn and check these must-sees out! Enjoy!

Jumanji:

Four teenagers discover an old video game console and are literally drawn into the game's jungle setting becoming the adult avatars they chose. Starring Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, Jack Black, and Karen Gillan.

Pitch Perfect 3:

We're Back Pitches!!! Following their win at the world championship, the now separated Bellas reunite for one last singing competition at an overseas USO tour, but face a group who uses both instruments and voices. Starring Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson, Rebel Wilson, and Hailee Steinfeld.

Downsizing:

When scientists discover how to shrink humans to five inches tall as a solution to overpopulation, Paul and his wife Audrey decide to abandon their stressed lives in order to get small and move to a new downsized community — a choice that triggers life-changing adventures. Starring Matt Damon and Kristen Wiig.

Star Wars (The Last Jedi):

Having taken her first steps into the Jedi world, Rey joins Luke Skywalker on an adventure with Leia, Finn and Poe that unlocks mysteries of the Force and secrets of the past. Starring Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, and Mark Hamill.

The Greatest Showman:

Inspired by the imagination of P.T. Barnum, The Greatest Showman is an original musical that celebrates the birth of show business and tells of a visionary who rose from nothing to create a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation. Starring Zendaya, Zac Efron, and Hugh Jackman.

Holiday Fun by Danielle D.



MISSLETOE



Happy...
Christmahanakwanzika...?



...
Who even came up with this...?

Happy holidays!
It's almost 2018!
Time flew so fast!
See you in the next edition!

Movie Review: *Wonder*

By Brooke K.

I'm willing to bet a pretty good portion of the Harrington Middle School population remembers the book, *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio fondly from their elementary school years.

Well, nostalgics rejoice! On November seventeenth, 2017, *Wonder* was adapted into a movie on the big screen!

Wonder is about a boy named August Pullman (played by Jacob Tremblay), who enters public school for the first time in the fifth grade. This is because he has extraordinarily rare facial abnormalities where he's always had to stay home recovering from treatments.

The film shines a light on a little-known disease known as Treacher Collins syndrome, an extremely rare genetic disorder affecting identified by abnormalities of the ears, eyes, cheekbones and chin. The film not only displays various symptoms and treatments of the disease, but also focuses on the bullying caused by the difference in appearance. The film overlooks a theme of child psychology and mob mentality, and highlights how everyone- students, parents, and teachers- play a role in ending bullying. The film in fact tied itself to the hashtag, *#ChooseKind*, a social media hashtag defaming harassment, intimidation, and bullying, as well as promoting acceptance. The hashtag was displayed in the trailers for the film.

Overall, the film was extraordinary. Both Palacio's and Chbosky's collaboration human relations and child psychology succeed through their light-toned, yet message-laden writing and impeccably character-developing dialogue. If you're looking for a great movie to sit back and watch this holiday season, *Wonder* is certainly a wonder!

Answer key for word scramble

Candles wreath
Chimney winter
Gifts stockings
Jolly
Merry
Party
Vixen
toys

????????????Bailey Asks.....????????????

By Bailey B.

With the holidays around the corner, I decided to interview some students and teachers about special traditions that they may have. Here are some of the responses that I received:

I celebrate Hanukkah. When the holiday comes around, we go to my Uncle's house to celebrate. One the adults always hides a piece of Matzah and all the kids have to find it. It's a lot of fun!- Brooke K, Phoenix 8

I celebrate Christmas. And on Christmas, I wake up. I haven't missed a year yet, so it's a pretty good tradition. -Mr.Hoover, Everest 7

My family celebrates Christmas, and each year we pick a night to go drive around to look at lights and then all 14 of us go out for pizza.- Mrs.Poulton, Everest 8 Teacher

My grandma and I make apple cinnamon cookies and hot chocolate to ring in the holidays. -Danalli B, Everest 8

My grandpa always reads The Night Before Christmas to my cousins and I, and it's the exact same copy that my great great grandmother read to him. When we are finished, we sing the songs from the back of the book. It's a lot of fun. -Hannah Z, Everest 8

Me and my family eat duck for the holidays. -Micah B, Oasis 7

My family eat Wendy's on Christmas Eve and we drink hot chocolate together. - Bailey B, Everest 8

All my family comes together for Christmas, including my cousins and aunts and uncles. -Justin K., Zephyr 8

My house always has the brightest lights in the neighborhood. It's awesome. -Emma B, Everest 8

I get to open one gift on Christmas Eve. -Jason G, Everest 8

Have a question that you would like for Bailey to ask in one of our future editions? Want to know something about your fellow students or teachers? We here at Paw Prints would love your feedback. Email us with ideas at hmspawprints@mtlaurel.org.



How To Survive the Holidays

By Anthony D.

The holiday season can be great, but there are also times when things can get a bit dangerous. Follow my simple rules to make sure that you remain safe this holiday season.

1. NEVER discuss politics at the dinner table.
2. When purchasing gifts for young boys, avoid Nerf products. Someone will get hurt. I speak from experience.
3. Buying books for little kids is also a no-no. Give a 5 year old a book and get a book to your face. It's that simple.
4. Cats and Christmas trees don't mix. If you have a feline friend be sure to keep a spray bottle on stand by. Unless you would like a kitty tree topper.
5. Purchasing a pet as a gift is super sweet, but be careful about how you wrap it. Putting little Fido in a cardboard box may not be a good idea.
6. Although everyone loves to celebrate New Years Eve with loud, rowdy festivities, you might want to think twice if your neighbor has a tendency to lose his cool...or if he has a garage full of tools that could be used as a weapon.



A Classic Holiday Favorite



By: Jason G. & Zaria H.

Cookie ingredients:

2 ¾ cups all purpose flour	1 teaspoon baking soda	½ teaspoon baking powder
1 cup butter 'softened'		
1 ½ cups white sugar	1 egg	1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1. Preheat oven to 375 °F. In a small bowl, stir together flour, baking soda, and baking powder. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in egg and vanilla. Gradually blend in the dry ingredients. Roll rounded teaspoonfuls of dough into balls, and place onto ungreased cookie sheets.
3. Bake 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven, or until golden. Let stand on cookie sheet two minutes before removing to cool on wire rack

ICING

1 cup confectioners' sugar	2 teaspoons milk
2 teaspoons light corn syrup	¼ teaspoon almond extract
<i>assorted food coloring</i>	

1. In a small bowl, stir together confectioners' sugar and milk until smooth. Beat in corn syrup and almond extract until icing is smooth and glossy. If icing is too thick, add more corn syrup.
2. Divide into separate bowls, and add food colorings to each to desired intensity. Dip cookies, or paint them with a brush.

Shared Piece of Heart

By Brooke K

Sneakers leaving signatures in the snowy ground,
We turn up our lips politely when we see others, offering our greetings without saying them,

Take the time to realize that you do not question that passerby on what holiday they celebrate

So maybe that obligatory, unlit smile can be kindled into a real one.

As people groom their houses, weaving lights over one another,

Forming a tapestry of anticipation for the upcoming dates

Whether the threads are the embrace of ruby and emerald or a unified sapphire,

They all lace together to create the same blanket to collapse around our hearts.

As our hands intertwine with our family members, creating a wreath of alliance,

And, not to mention, our own uniquely tied bows of tradition,

Whether we sit turkeys or matzah down on mother's best china

All of our hearts sip on the same chilly moonlight

That is only poured into the snow once a year

At this time of year,

Even though the color of the light may be different

There is a shared piece of heart that is cradled by the same fingers of lustrous gold

Let that hand of light shake each person's soul

Letting them all arise

For the same silver hope decorating the edges of winter

Happy Holidays To All

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