



The Inferno —

“Maybe Christmas doesn’t come in a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more.”

- Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Happy Holidays!

Elf on the Shelf

By Kamiyah Taylor

The Famous Christmas Tradition

Have you ever seen this dainty creature roaming around your household? No? Because you never will. The elf will never move while you are awake, but you must not touch it. The elf is a supposed scout who observes children's behavior and each night reports to the North Pole to determine who we will be on the Naughty and Nice lists. In the morning, the elf returns and is always found in peculiar but amusing positions throughout the household.

How did this "elf on the shelf" Christmas tale come to be? The tale all started with The Elf on the Shelf children's book authors Carol V. Aebersold and Bell Chanda and their unique traditions. The original elf that they used when they were children inspired the modern tale of the elf today. The storybook has become so popular that it has turned into a national frenzy where households across the nation participate.

****Moody High School has decided to participate in this tradition as well for the very first time, so be on the lookout for our Moody Devil Elves around school!**





CHRISTMAS PUNS

By Adrian Valencia



1. What did Adam say the day before Christmas?
It's Christmas, Eve!
2. What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?
Claustrophobic
3. If an athlete gets athletes foot, what do astronauts get?
Missile-toe
4. What is a parents favorite Christmas carol?
Silent Night
5. What did the salt say to the pepper?
Season's Greetings!
6. What language does Santa speak?
North Polish
7. What's the forecast for Christmas Eve?
Rain, dear
8. What was Santa's favorite subject in school?
Chemistree
9. Why did the elf win the argument about his ears?
He had some good points
10. What is the difference between a snowman and a snowwoman?
Snowballs
11. What do baby elves learn in Kindergarten at the North Pole?
The elf-abet



Thanksgiving

Maggie Higgins

Thanksgiving is the time of the year where families come together to have a feast and to share what they have been thankful for over the past year.

Thanksgiving has evolved through the years, to include such events as The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and the massive sales on Black Friday. Over the years Thanksgiving has become far more excessive and advertised. Hallmark cards feature cartoon turkeys wishing relatives a "Happy Thanksgiving!" and grocery store shelves are fully stocked with all sorts of spices and condiments needed for your thanksgiving dinner, but we all know there is more to the holiday than the food.

The story of a fall day in 1621, the day of the first ever Thanksgiving, didn't exactly go as remembered. When the colonists celebrated their first harvest with the Wampanoag Native American Tribe things did not settle in with the colonists very well. I mean, could you imagine someone just coming into your home and just invading everything? The Native American Tribe and the colonist fought until one day they just got tired so they decided on making peace with one another and came together to celebrate over a feast.

That is what Thanksgiving is all about. Thanksgiving is when a family comes together after a rough year to celebrate and to be thankful for what they were given. Thanksgiving is about being grateful for what you have and for the people that you have around you.

Favorite Family Traditions



Rebecca Mhagama

The holidays are a time for family, friends, and fellowship. Whether it's Thanksgiving, Christmas, or the Iron Bowl; however, every holiday differs with each type of family and different traditions they celebrate. Here are some favorite traditions from your fellow students:

Odalys O. (senior) -

My family moved a lot and we were constantly away from the rest of our family—everyone else was in Mexico—so, it's only the six of us. But, every year, no matter where we are, we would all meet up at our old house in Pinson. On every Christmas Eve we'd stay up till midnight to open up presents. Yeah, that's my favorite tradition.”

Angela M. (senior) –

“We wake up together on Christmas morning and start preparing for the Christmas dinner; prepping the vegetables, stuffing turkey, singing Spanish Christmas songs. We start figuring out what dessert to make, it's usually a Mexican dessert. This is my favorite tradition because Christmas day is like one of the few days where no one is preoccupied with other things. It's a day where we can just stay home together as a family, and the food is good—always good.”

Peyton A. (senior) -

“I come from a Christian family, so Christmas to me is always a special time. It's more than just the presents, Church is the biggest part of it. The best part about Christmas is the candlelight service my church holds. Everybody is in the sanctuary with grasped hands—everyone holds a lit candle. It's the meaning. The meaning of Christmas is what makes it so special. It's hard to be upset, it's hard to be angry when everything is just—love.”

Kirsten W. (freshman) -

“Thanksgiving is one of my favorites. We all meet up at my house—my whole family. We all bring food, and there's always a big ole turkey. My grandmother goes down to the beach to visit my uncle, my sister comes down from Georgia, and my family from Moody comes to my house. We eat a whole lot of food while we watch the Iron Bowl. I love this tradition because I get to see all of my family and eat a lot of food. I like to eat.”

Kaitlyn W. (sophomore) -

“Every Thanksgiving we watch Home Alone while putting up our Christmas tree. I don't know why I like this holiday. I guess it's just the Christmas vibe - just watching Kevin get left home alone. Yeah, there's nothing more Christmas than that to me.”

Nariah J. (freshman) –

“My favorite family tradition is Thanksgiving. After we eat, and keep in mind we're eating good cause you know black families eat good, we play bingo and there's always good prizes. The Friday after Thanksgiving, we all go to Black Friday because a girl got sales. We also have a cookie-off, to see who can make the best treats. I love this tradition because with my family it's always a good time.”

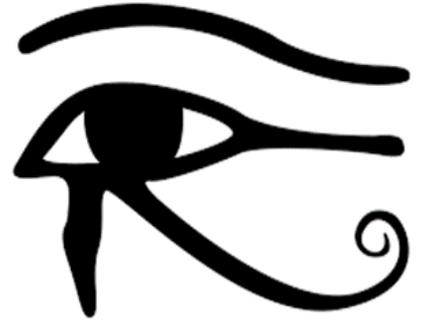


Winter Solstice



Millie Gilbert

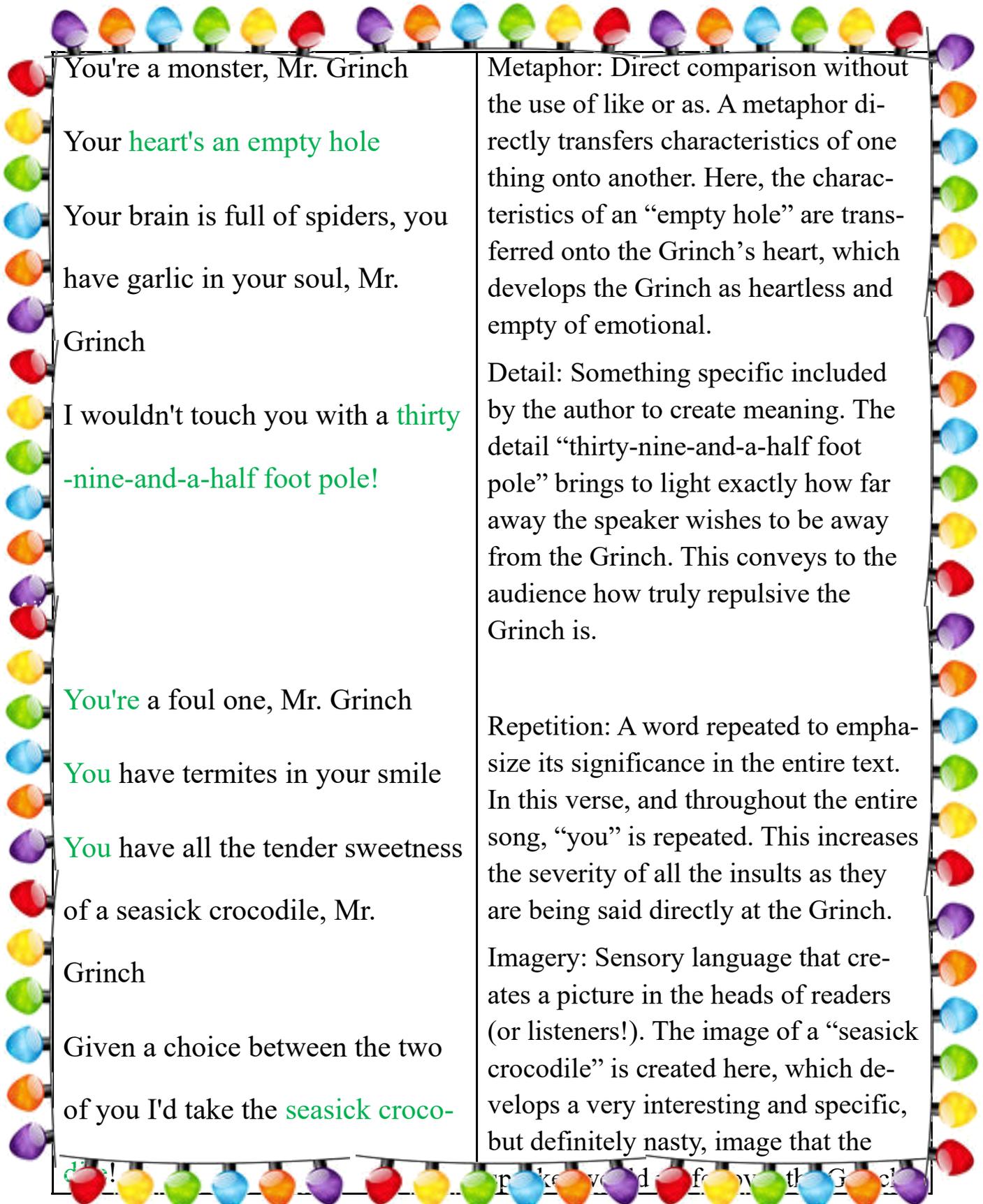
Solstice is one of the oldest winter holidays. Winter solstice is the day with the least daylight, and it marks the beginning of winter. This year Solstice will fall on December 21st. Following the winter solstice, days begin to get longer, causing it to be considered by some a time of rebirth. Called Yule (thought to originate from the Norse word for wheel, as in the wheel of the sun, *houl*) in some religions, the winter solstice celebrates the birth of the God from the Goddess. For many, it is a simply a celebration to welcome the spring in the form of lengthening days. Longer days are symbolic of opportunity and newness. Some Pagans celebrate Yule in the form of a pot luck, which represents fellowship, togetherness, and community. Most cultures celebrate winter holidays like this, sharing their scarce food stores and coming together to enjoy each other's company.



Many Christian Christmas traditions originated as Pagan traditions. For example, Santa Claus stems from Saturn, the Roman Agriculture God. This comes from the concept that Saturn brings the return of spring, and warmth, much like Santa Claus brings joy to children in the form of gifts. The winter Solstice is also often celebrated by welcoming the sun into one's home, in the form of candles, fires, or types of artificial lights. From a spiritual standpoint, Solstice can be considered the rebirth of a specific deity that is associated with the Sun. Brining light into your home is symbolic of the Egyptian sun God, Ra (Ray). Ra is thought to be born every morning and die every night, as the sun comes up and goes down. Ra's "Tree of Life" could be a parallel to modern day Christmas trees.

Solstice is often misinterpreted as what Pagan's celebrate as a New Year, but this is false. The Pagan's New Year is Samhain (Sou-win), which occurs October 31st (Halloween) to November 1st. Thus, Solstice is the mark of the first quarter of the year being complete, much like Groundhog's Day marks the end of the first quarter of the year for many.

Literary Devices in Lyrics! Millie Gilbert



<p>You're a monster, Mr. Grinch</p>	<p>Metaphor: Direct comparison without the use of like or as. A metaphor directly transfers characteristics of one thing onto another. Here, the characteristics of an “empty hole” are transferred onto the Grinch’s heart, which develops the Grinch as heartless and empty of emotional.</p>
<p>Your heart's an empty hole</p>	<p>Detail: Something specific included by the author to create meaning. The detail “thirty-nine-and-a-half foot pole” brings to light exactly how far away the speaker wishes to be away from the Grinch. This conveys to the audience how truly repulsive the Grinch is.</p>
<p>Your brain is full of spiders, you have garlic in your soul, Mr. Grinch</p>	<p>Repetition: A word repeated to emphasize its significance in the entire text. In this verse, and throughout the entire song, “you” is repeated. This increases the severity of all the insults as they are being said directly at the Grinch.</p>
<p>I wouldn't touch you with a thirty-nine-and-a-half foot pole!</p>	<p>Imagery: Sensory language that creates a picture in the heads of readers (or listeners!). The image of a “seasick crocodile” is created here, which develops a very interesting and specific, but definitely nasty, image that the</p>
<p>You're a foul one, Mr. Grinch</p>	<p>...speaker would do for you with the Grinch!</p>
<p>You have termites in your smile</p>	
<p>You have all the tender sweetness of a seasick crocodile, Mr. Grinch</p>	
<p>Given a choice between the two of you I'd take the seasick croco-</p>	

Homemade Christmas Decorations

By Kamiyah Taylor



A Folded Mini Forest

Use a circle punch or scissors to cut card stock into various sizes of your choice, then accordion-fold the paper to create the look of evergreen boughs. Next, stack the folded rings (use glue if needed) and attach to a small wood dowel or cut log slices to easily whip up a “forest of firs”. If you want to add the look of a winter forest, you can add instant snow and/or deer figurines.

Mason Jar Christmas Tree

For this festive twist on the classic Christmas tree, you’ll need mason jars (how many will depend on how big you would like your Christmas tree), small ornaments, tinsel, fake greenery, jingle bells, shiny garland, and a small star. First, fill your mason jars with ornaments, tinsel, greenery, or any other cheery decoration and then assemble them in a neat pyramid. Finally, wrap your pyramid with your shiny garland, and top it with a star!



Holiday Shakers

You’ll want to “shake it like a salt shaker” when you turn a dollar salt shakers into a mini wonderland by nesting toy evergreens and animals atop iodized “drifts”!



diy christmas gifts

By Millie Gilbert

Coupon books: This gift can be as simple or elaborate as you wish to make it! A small book bound with twine or binder rings, filled with coupons that can be “cashed in” to the gifter. The great thing about this gift is it can be personalized for anyone in your life! Mom, Dad, Sister, Brother, or significant other, a coupon book is a cute, personalized idea that is a quick, thoughtful, and cheap! Examples for coupons include: “One breakfast in bed” or “Movie night: Your choice!”



Mini Christmas Trees: For the plant lovers in your life, this gift is perfect (and best given before Christmas!) Simply pick up a small potted tree from a hardware store and decorate it with handmade ornaments. Get creative as your wish, and feel free to match the tree’s colors to the person’s taste or even their favorite sports team.



Travel Art Kit: Who doesn’t love a new notebook and set of colored pencils? A travel art kit can be put together with gifts from the dollar store. Just simply get a plethora of office and art supplies and put them in a pencil bag. Tie it to a small notebook with ribbon and voila! You have a gift that can relieve anyone’s creative urges.





Volunteer Opportunities

Rebecca Mhagama

McWane 2019 Summer Teen Program

Where? McWane Science Center

When? Summer of 2019. Applications open January 2019.

What? “If you love talking to people, have a passion for science, and are looking for a meaningful way to spend your summer, [the] McWane Science Center Summer Teen Program is the right place for you!”

Prerequisites: Must be 14+, a completed application, a resumé, two letters of recommendation, and an interview

More Info? <https://www.mcwane.org/join/volunteer/teen-program/>

The Red Barn

Where? The Red Barn (in Leeds, AL)

When? Fall and/or Spring Term. Applications are open.

What? They need people who can work with horses and/or children, can do farm chores, and/or work on farm projects for kids.

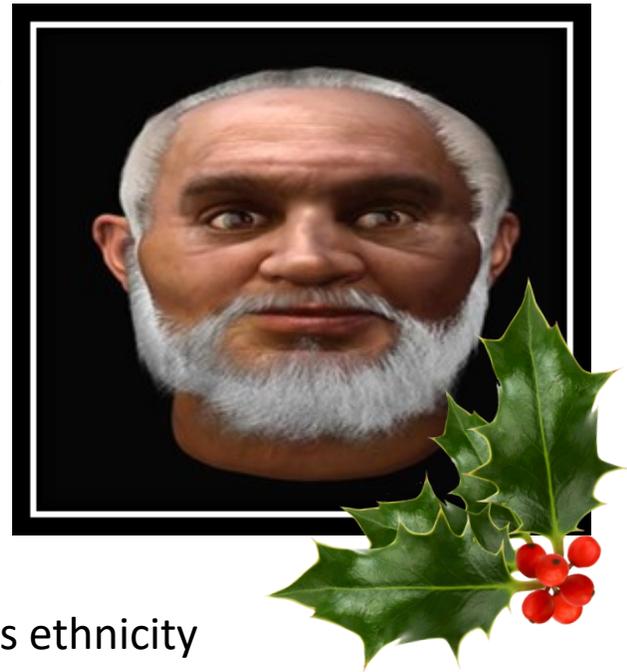
Prerequisites: Must be 14+, attend a tour of The Red Barn, and submit an application which includes a background check

More Info? joy@theredbarn.org (Volunteer Coordinator)

The Original Santa Claus

By Keturah Miles

Did you know that Santa Claus is real? But it's not the same Santa that lives in the North Pole and travels around the world in one night. The Santa Claus we know is a white-washed version of the original Saint Nicholas. The round white man who lives in the North Pole and brings presents to all good girls and boys was a character created by the Coca-Cola company as an advertisement based off the poem A Visit from St. Nicholas or better known as Twas the Night Before Christmas. The Coca-Cola company hired a Michigan artist to create the illustration of Santa Claus in the red suit that we all know today. This character was based off a monk in Myra (modern day Turkey located in the Middle East) Saint Nicholas or "Sinterklaas" which translates to "our favorite saint." He was a very kind selfless bishop who was known for caring immensely for the poor and giving secret gifts to those who needed them. He was later given the title as a Saint. This is what he probably looked like based on his ethnicity and facial reconstruction He was said to be darker skin, ~5'7, and ~200 pounds - not at all round and white.



CULTURAL CHRISTMAS

Keturah Miles

Christmas time is celebrated around the world with different traditions throughout different cultures every year. In most homes in America, it is celebrated with feasts, gift giving, Christmas trees, nativity sets, Christmas plays, and the idea of Santa clause. While this is the tradition of many American households there are different traditions in other cultures...

Germany

In Germany, the legend of Krampus is the juxtaposition of Santa Claus, the kind saint who rewards children for their good deeds throughout the year on Christmas. Krampus is his wicked counterpart that swifts' bad children away in his sack and takes them to his lair. These traditions begin in the beginning of December every year.



Norway

In Norway, one of the strangest traditions are the hiding of brooms. Centuries ago, people believed that on Christmas Eve witches came about looking for brooms to ride on. Still in Norway, the day before Christmas eve many people still hide their brooms, now whether they hide it for tradition or in the belief that witches will steal their brooms, I don't know, I'm not Norwegian.



Venezuela

In Venezuela, every Christmas Eve, the residents head to church...typical for the United States too, right? Wrong. The people of Venezuela go to church on roller blades. Since so many people roller blade to church on Christmas Eve, streets are closed to cars so that the masses can roller blade safely.

Iceland

In the 13 days leading up to Christmas, 13 troll-like characters come out to play that are referred to as the Yule-Lads. Each Yule-Lad visit each child across the country in these 13 days that is referred to as "Yuletide." For each Yuletide night, children throughout Iceland leave their shoes by their windows, and each night, a different Yule-Lad visits. The Yule-Lad leaves gifts in the shoes of all the good children, while leaving rotten potatoes in the shoes of all the bad kids. But be careful, these Yule-Lads are very mischievous!

CHRISTMAS

By Mollie Stone

WORDS SEARCH

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Bells

Comet

Festive

Nutcracker

Blitzen

Cupid

Frosty

Ornaments

Candles

Dancer

Gingerbread

Pie

Candy Cane

Dasher

Holiday

Prancer

Cards

Decorations

Holly

Presents

Carols

Donner

Lights

Reindeer

Celebrate

Eggnog

Mistletoe

Rudolph

Chocolate

Elves

Mittens

Santa Clause

Cider



DIY Christmas Crafts

By: Madison Scott

Snow Globes



Supplies Needed:

- ◆ Small jar
- ◆ Small toy to put inside
- ◆ Glycerin
- ◆ Glitter



Instructions:

- ◆ With your hot glue gun, put a little bit of glue on the bottom of your toy. Using the pliers, put it in the bottom of your jar wherever you want. Press down on the toy to make it stay in place. Let dry for 10 minutes.
- ◆ Fill your jar with water. Put one small drop of glycerin in the globe to make the glitter float around. Add a pinch of glitter. Don't add too much, the snow will look too hazy!

Pinecone Christmas Trees

Supplies Needed:

- ◆ Pinecone
- ◆ Green spray paint
- ◆ Wine cork
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Hot glue gun and glue



Directions:

- ◆ Spray paint the pinecone with the green spray paint. Leave the inside brown, to make it look more like a tree. Leave the paint to dry.
- ◆ Cut the wine cork in half, glue the bottom of the pinecone to the wine cork, and let the glue dry.

Moody Tomatoes

Christmas Edition

By Maggie Higgins

The Polar Express

PG

#HotChocolate #Christmas #Classics



When a young boy stays awake late on Christmas Eve to hear the jingle bells of Santa's sleigh to confirm his belief, he hears instead, a bell of a train that will take him for the ride of his life. The Polar Express captures the significance and importance of friendship and to encourage others to always believe in the impossible.



National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

#Christmas #Comedic #Family



PG-13

Clark Griswold, a hard-working father of two teens, is determined to show his family an old-fashioned Christmas in National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. This movie includes an uprooted tree being slapped onto the roof of a car, kidnapping a boss, the SWAT team, an explosion, and plenty more. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation should keep you occupied with its goofy entertainment.





Christmas Treats



Christmas Brownie Pops:

Ingredients:

- 1 (13 x 9x2-inch) pan of fudgy brownie recipe from mix or your favorite fudgy brownie recipe
- Ingredients needed for brownie mix
- 2 packages (11.5 oz. each) HERSHEY'S Kitchens Milk Chocolate Chips
- 36 lollipop sticks
- Styrofoam block
- Holiday sprinkles, chopped nuts, or small decorative candies
- Plastic wrap (optional)
- Narrow ribbon (optional)

Instructions:

1. Using the instructions on the brownie package, bake the brownies in foil-lined pan with foil extending beyond edges of pan. Let cool.
2. Line tray with wax paper. Use foil as handles and lift brownie out of pan. Cut off edges and knead brownie until it forms large ball. Divide into small balls; place on prepared tray.
3. Put 1/4 cup of milk chocolate chips in microwave safe bowl. Microwave 30 seconds at medium heat. Stir, and microwave an additional 10 seconds at a time stirring after each, if needed. Dip 1/2 inch of lollipop stick into melted chocolate and insert halfway into brownie ball. Freeze for about 10 minutes.
4. Place remaining chocolate chips into microwave safe

Christmas cookie pizza:

Ingredients:

- 1 pouch (about 17.5 oz.) sugar cookie mix
- 1/4 cup HERSHEY'S SPECIAL DARK Cocoa or HERSHEY'S Cocoa
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter or margarine, softened
- 1 egg
- 1 tub (8 oz.) frozen non-dairy whipped topping, thawed
- 1/2 cup HERSHEY'S Kitchens Milk Chocolate Chips
- 1 teaspoon shortening (do not use butter, margarine, spread or oil)
- Assorted holiday sprinkles

Instructions:

1. Heat oven to 350° F. Line cookie sheet with parchment paper, extending paper at least 1 inch beyond sides and ends of pan.
2. Stir together cookie mix and cocoa in large bowl until well blended and no lumps remain. Add butter and egg; stir until soft dough forms (hand knead if necessary).
3. Press cookie dough evenly into 10 to 12-inch circle on prepared cookie sheet. Bake 10 to 12 minutes, or until wooden pick inserted in center of cookie comes out clean. Cool completely in pan on wire rack. Transfer cookie to serving platter or leave on cookie sheet.
4. Place milk chocolate chips and shortening in small microwave-safe bowl. Microwave at MEDIUM (50%) for



Christmas

Lights

Places

By: Kamiyah Taylor

HUNTSVILLE BOTANICAL GARDENS “GALAXY OF LIGHTS”

This “Galaxy of Lights” is a two and a half mile long spectacular display of the most festive lights of the season that features an animated light exhibit of a holiday village, dinosaurs,

Dates: Open from November 23rd – December 31st

5:30 pm-9:00 pm

Admissions: *Driving Nights:* \$25 per vehicle (up to 10 people); \$3 per extra person

Walking Nights: Adults: \$12.00

“BIRMINGHAM ZOO “ZOO LIGHT SAFARI”

Come and see the Birmingham Zoo light up your night with not only the most jubilant Christmas lights they have to offer, but holiday music as you are sightseeing, festive snow-falls, and many thrilling rides. Such as their Candy Cane Train, Yuletide Slide (that is over 100 feet), and even more!

Dates: December 12th - 14th; 18th-23rd; 26th-31st from 5pm-9pm all nights open.

Pricing: Members: FREE Admission

Non-Members: \$10

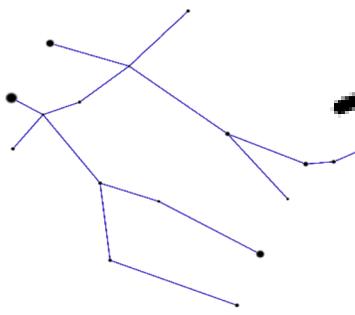
“CHRISTMAS AT THE FALLS” IN GADSDEN

The city of Gadsden presents their most elaborate light display called “Christmas at the Falls!” After walking through or viewing from the park’s train their dazzling display of millions of lights, you can enjoy hot chocolate or attend the various festivities they have to offer such as cookie decorating, visiting their petting zoo, or maybe even getting a visit from Santa Clause himself!

Dates: November 22nd-December 23rd from 5pm-9pm

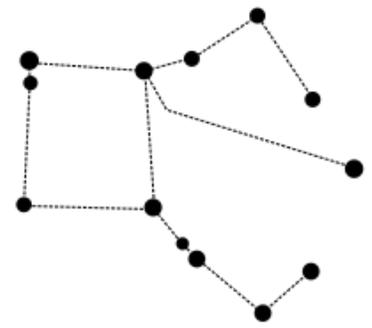
Pricing: Age 4 and older: \$5

Age 3 and younger: Free



Horoscopes

By Mollie Stone



What winter animal are you based on your sign?

Aries- Artic Fox

Taurus- Emperor Penguin

Gemini- River Otter

Cancer- Eurasian Lynx

Leo- Siberian Tiger

Aquarius- Pacific Walrus



Virgo- Snowy Owl

Libra- Reindeer

Scorpio- Snow Leopard

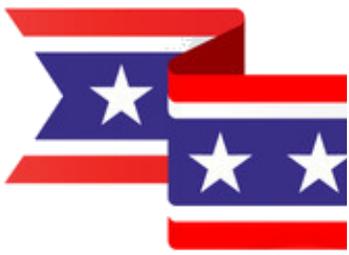
Sagittarius- Black-Capped Chickadee

Capricorn- Musk Ox

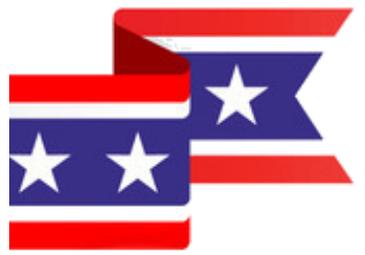
Pisces- Gentoo Penguin

What's Your Sign?

Aries	March 21 – April 20
Taurus	April 21 – May 20
Gemini	May 21 – June 21
Cancer	June 22 – July 22
Leo	July 23 – August 23
Virgo	August 24 – September 23
Libra	September 24 – October 23
Scorpio	October 24 – November 22
Sagittarius	November 23 – December 21
Capricorn	December 22 – January 20
Aquarius	January 21 – February 18
Pisces	February 19 – March 20



WHY I VOTED



Rebecca Mhagama

(and special thanks to Clay Birchfield)

The 2018 midterm in Alabama went as expected. Incumbents held their seats and the open races were won by the GOP. As far as our representatives, as mentioned in my “Who’s Running...” article, the state of Alabama remains one of the deepest shades of red in the union. In good news, voter turnout increased nationally, and youth turnout increased about 11% from 2014 in this midterm. Here’s why some of your fellow MHS students voted:

Clay Birchfield: “I voted because I wanted to exercise the right that so many people fought and died for.”

Maggie Cannon: “I voted because I believe every voice matters.”

Brooklin Aaron: “I voted because we need more people to vote so that the folks in office better represent us.”

Lauren Cherry: “For one, I was excited to get to vote for the first time. Also, I wanted to share my voice with the community and try and make an impact.”

Zac Mason: “I voted because it is a constitutional right and the greatest thing I can do as an American citizen. It is my duty.”

TIS' THE SEASON TO COMMERCIALIZE

By: Odalys Ordonez

Christmas has become a commercialized spectacle from department store Santas and mass-produced ornaments.

Singing Christmas carols, decking the halls with artificial boughs of holly, twinkling lights, and a synthetic pine tree topped with a dazzling disposable star, littered with colorful plastic ornaments and cardboard boxes wrapped in festive paper containing the year's most novel trend. The commercialization of the Christmas holiday has long been pushed into the back of our minds and assimilated into our traditions. Some well-executed marketing has given us exactly this.

For instance, there are the famed Coca Cola commercials beginning in 1920, selling us the image of Santa that forms in our brains when the jolly old fat man is mentioned, while essentially associating his image to the name brand beverage. Annual holiday-themed movies like those of *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, are utilized to spin off an infatuation of merchandise, records, television shows, books, and anything else that could be profitable. The latter is another example of a well-timed marketing stunt, as our favorite reindeer was created as a ploy for more newspaper coverage in 1939. Rightfully proclaimed as “the most famous reindeer of all,” Rudolph (almost named Reginald) has indeed “[gone] down in history.” Some more economical traditions of the holiday season are the annual “Black Friday” and, it’s more accessible counterpart, “Cyber Monday” sales that kick off the holiday season’s shopping by pushing consumers into stores with advertised “good deals” and “low prices.” However, these allow companies to boost sales and becomes the most profitable time period of the year for retailers. Originally, the Christmas season was a time for celebrating life whether viewed from any perspective. Now, it’s the time of shopping for gifts during the annual “Black Friday” and “Cyber Monday” sales and the promotion of products and services alongside seasonal figures, such as the famous Coca Cola commercials depicting Father Christmas himself.



As we once again spiral into the commercial racket, many of us begin to wonder if Christmas was ever simply just another day of the year for family, joy, to quote the famed Coca Cola commercials, “spreading happiness,” and free of the capitalistic corruption. The entirety of the holiday season has become a commercialized spectacle from department store Santa’s to mass-produced ornaments to the merry songs on the radio, taking on a tremendous economic significance.

<https://smallbiztrends.com>

<https://www.bloomberg.com>

Top 5 Christmas Songs

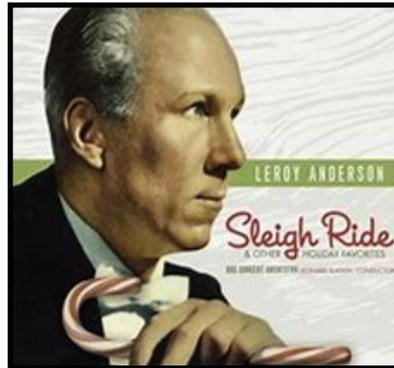
By Adrian Valencia



- 1.** All I Want For Christmas Is You
By: **Mariah Carey**



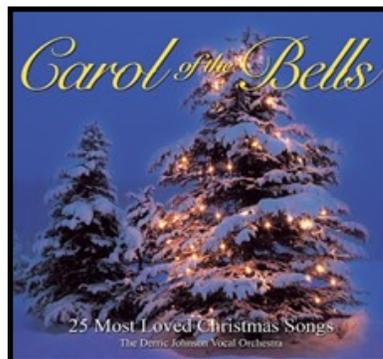
- 2.** Last Christmas
By: **Wham!**



- 3.** Sleigh Ride
By: **Leroy Anderson**



- 4.** Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas
By: **Frank Sinatra**



- 5.** Carol of the Bells
By: **Mykola Leontovych**



BASKETBALL INTERVIEWS

Keturah Miles



Varsity Boys:

Dejuan Jordan Holyfield

#1, Point guard and shooting guard

11th grade

How long have you been playing basketball?

- I've been playing almost my whole life. I started in elementary school.

What's your favorite thing about basketball?

- I love the competitiveness, the crowds, and the great teammates I get to play with.

What are your expectation for the season?

- To win county, and most importantly, win our area to make it to regionals (playoffs).

What game are you looking for the most this season?

- I'm looking forward to the matchup against Center Point because that gives our team some adversity to battle and to get us ready for our area tournament.

James Collins

#15, Center and power forward

12th grade

How long have you been playing basketball?

- I've been playing since the 8th grade.

What's your favorite thing about basketball?

- My favorite thing is seeing all our hard work and effort pay off.

What's your expectation for the season?

- To win county and make it to state.

What game are you looking forward the most?

- St. Clair, because it's our biggest rival.

Varsity Girls:

Jada Fairbanks

#3, Small forward

12th grade

How long have you been playing?

- Since 7th grade.

Favorite thing about basketball?

- Boxing out and slapping the ball.

Expectations for the season?

- Having a better season than last year.

What game are you looking forward to the most and why?

- The St. Clair and Leeds game because they think they can beat us but they can't, PERIODT!!

Mya Carroll

#4, Point guard

11th grade

How long have you been playing?

- Since the 5th grade.

Favorite thing about basketball?

- Balling with my team.

What are your goals for the season?

- To be a better person on and off the court.

What game are you most excited for and why?

- Leeds, again, because I don't like them.

Junior Varsity Boys:

Ahmari Rowe' Brown

#24, Power forward

10th grade

How long have you been playing?

- Since 7th grade.

What's your favorite thing about basketball?

- Just playing and being with my teammates.

What game are you most excited for and why?

- Springville because they beat us in the county championship last year.

Dylan Finley

#35, Center

9th grade

How long have you been playing?

- Since 8th grade.

Favorite thing about basketball?

- Scoring.

Expectations for the season?

- County champs.

What game are you most looking forward to?

- Leeds, they talk too much trash.
-

Basketball Schedule

12/18—7:30 p @ Vincent High School, Vincent, AL

12/19—4:00p @Oneonta High School, Onenota, AL

1/4—6:15p @ Springville High School, Springville, AL

1/4—8:00p @ Springville High School, Springville, AL

1/7—6:30p @ Ashville High School, Ashville, AL

1/8—7:00p @ Winterboro High School, Alpine, AL

1/11—6:00p & 7:30p @Moody High School vs. St. Clair

1/15—7:30p @ Centerpoint High School, Birmingham, AL

1/18—7:30p @ Moody High School vs. Leeds

1/29— 7:00p @ Pell City High School, Pell City, AL

1/31—6:00p & 7:30p @Moody High School vs. John Carroll Catholic, Birmingham, AL

2/1—7:30p @ Moody High School vs. Vincent



Christmas Myths and Legends

By: Odalys Ordonez

From a white-bearded Santa Clause donning a suit of red and white, to his short pointy-eared elves and red-nosed reindeer, Christmas has plenty of strange lore. Below are some international Christmas myths that while seemingly bizarre, are part of the traditions and folklore in other countries.

1. The Thirteen Yule Lads

According to Icelandic legends, the Yule lads are mischievous pranksters that travel through the mountains along with their mother Grýla, a mountain giantess/troll. A different Yule lad visits the children each day, leaving gifts or rotten potatoes depending if they were naughty or nice.

2. Jólakötturinn, the Yule Cat

Another Icelandic myth surrounding the Yule season was that of a giant cat who preys on those who did not wear new clothes for the holiday season. It is believed that this myth was created in order to make people work harder.

3. Krampus

The German legend has gained much more recognition through movies and television shows. It tells of a horned creature who works as the opposite of Santa and punishes naughty children by abducting them.

4. Elf on a Shelf

Beginning as an innocent attempt at a new Christmas tradition, the Elf on a Shelf has become a creepy modern myth that became a parenting enforcer, with the Elf “observing” children and family members throughout the day and reporting to the North Pole at night. When it “returns,” it is usually found located in a place different from the one the day, or even hour before.

Sources:

www.emgn.com, <https://www.businessinsider.com>, www.worldatlas.com





VETERANS DAY

Madison Scott

On this day, November 11th, we honor those who served and who are currently in active duty in the military. Some of us may have many family members in the armed forces, some may not. Regardless, we should all appreciate what the military has done for us and what they continue to do for us every day. These women and men have given their lives for our safety and protection. Unlike some other countries, we have an independent country and rights that no one else has. We fight for our freedom and we will continue to, no matter what comes in our way.



On September 1st, 1939 World War 2 started. It was one of the bloodiest wars in history. Many soldiers were lost, but they were fighting for America. America is known for both World Wars. Around 18-23 million soldiers were killed in World War 1, and in World War 2, around 15 million soldiers were killed.

We also have a holiday called “Memorial Day”. On this day, we honor the fallen heroes who passed or didn’t pass their injuries. Even though we have two separate holidays for veterans, we still honor them the same. We appreciate every veteran that has served or is in active duty at this time. We thank you for everything that you have risked for our freedom. No matter what branch you are in, you are much appreciated!



Things to Do Over Christmas Break

Madison Scott

Christmas Movie Series at The Alabama Theatre

This is a traditional event that includes many classic movies you can sit and watch for only \$9! Enjoy these classics like 'It's A Wonderful Life,' 'Home Alone,' 'Miracle On 34th Street' and so many more classics. This event runs through December 1st- 22nd. Each movie will start at 7 p.m. every night! For more information visit www.alabamatheatre.com.

Alabama Ballet Presents George Balanchine's 'The Nutcracker'

Come to this event to see breathtaking scenes and amazing dances from each performer. This is a great event for kids and adults alike! Each performance starts at 7:30p.m on Friday's and Saturday's at 2:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$30 and \$65. This event is through December 14th - 23rd. For more information visit www.alabamaballet.org.

A 'Charlie Brown Christmas' Live On Stage At The BJCC

This show is great for families with little kids. This show will start at 7p.m. on December 14th. Tickets start at \$40. For more information visit www.americanteatreguild.org.

Christmas Ornament Party

In this event, you are able to choose to make a Christmas tree, Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, a Christmas star, or create your own. Each ticket includes an ornament creation kit, hot chocolate to drink, samples of the 12 pops of Christmas, a family Polaroid photo, exclusive pricing on holiday gift packs, and a pop! This event is held at Steel City Pops in Homewood on December 16th from 2-5pm, tickets vary from \$8-\$22. For more information please visit www.allevents.in.

Santa's Wonderland At Bass Pro Shops

This event is completely free. You get your picture taken with Santa, fun crafts for kids, and games. Offers remote control trucks, Lincoln logs, laser/foam toy arcade, and much more. There's even an opportunity to write a letter to Santa. Even starts December 1st and lasts thru December 24th. To learn more visit www.stores.basspro.com.

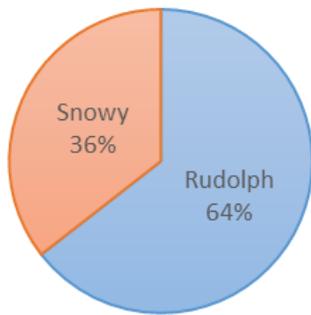


SURVEYS



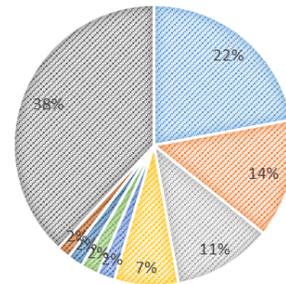
Moody High School students have many different hobbies and interests. We had the student body fill out a questionnaire to compare and contrast the results. Below are the graphs representing favorite books, movies, animals, sports teams, and even would you rather.

Rudolph vs Frosty the Snowman as a friend

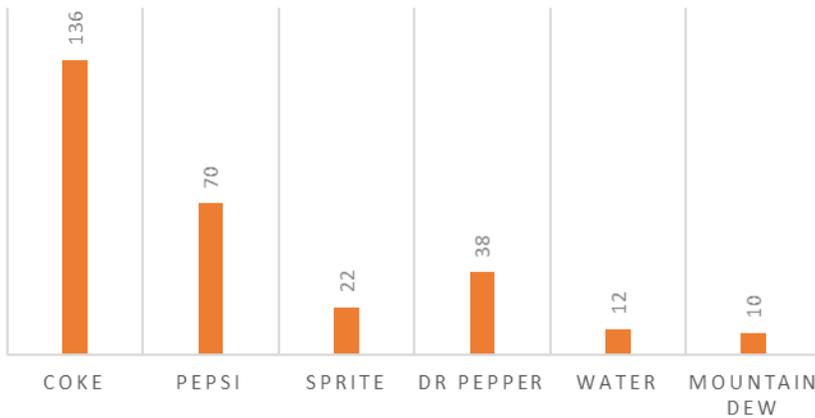


FAVORITE SCHOOL LUNCH

- crispos
- cheese sticks
- mashed potatoes
- pizza
- chicken
- taco salad
- wings
- cheeseburger
- nothing

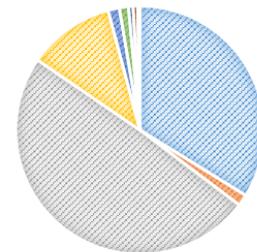


FAVORITE DRINK

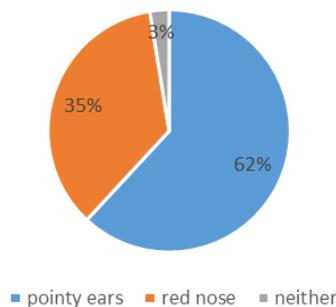


EYE COLOR

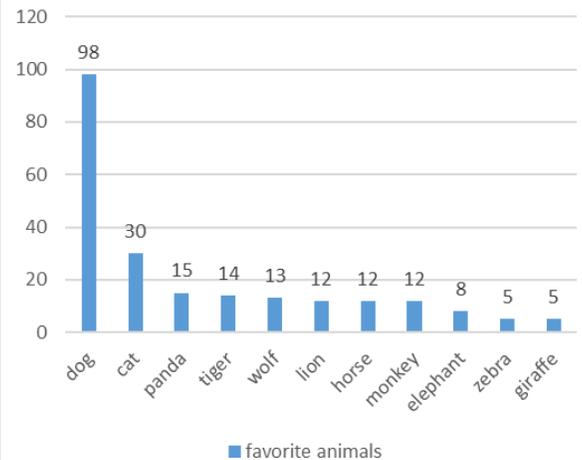
- blue
- green
- brown
- hazel
- grey
- black
- orange
- pink
- red



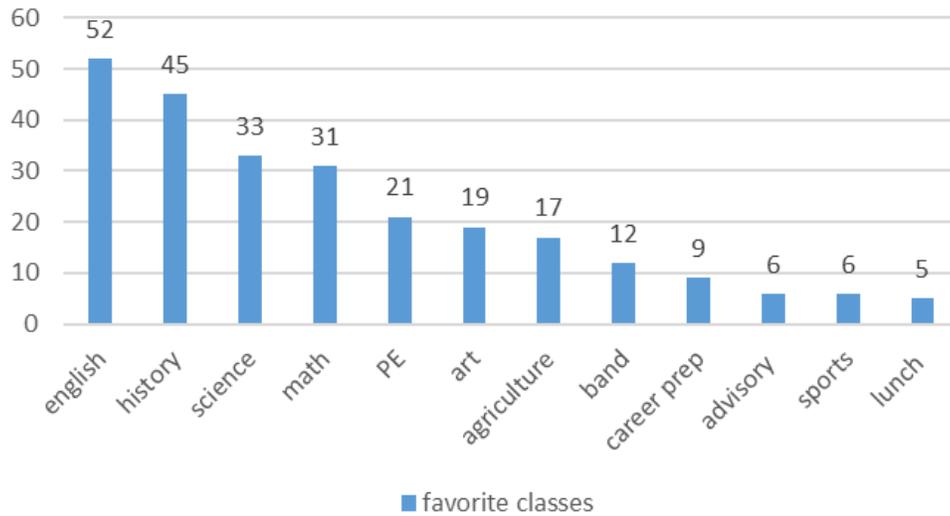
Red nose like Rudolph or pointy ears like an elf



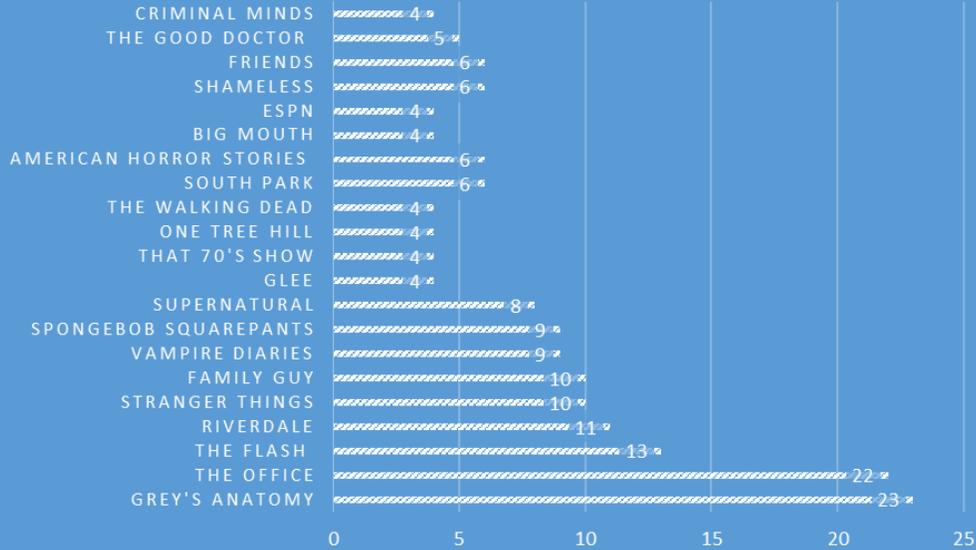
Favorite Animals



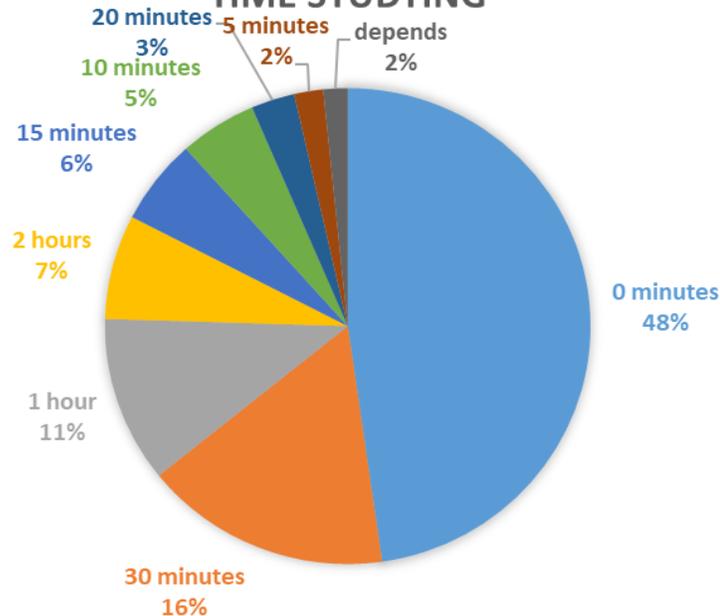
Favorite Classes



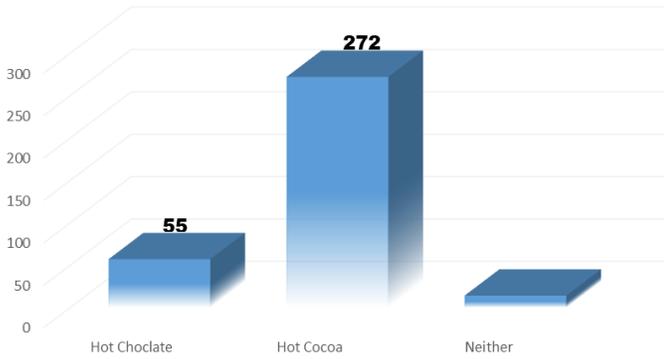
FAVORITE TV SHOW



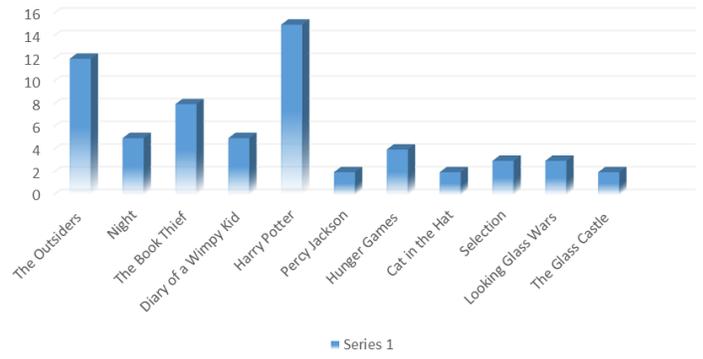
TIME STUDYING



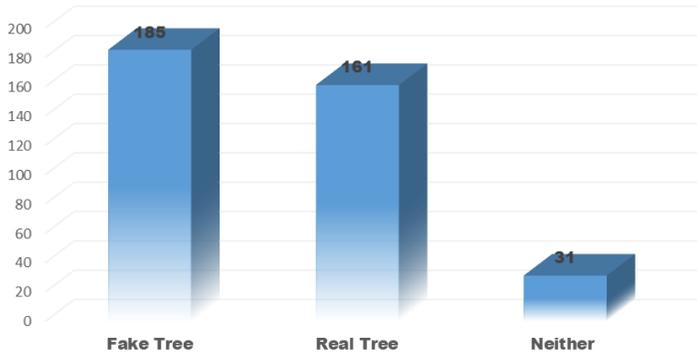
HOT CHOCOLATE OR HOT COCOA?



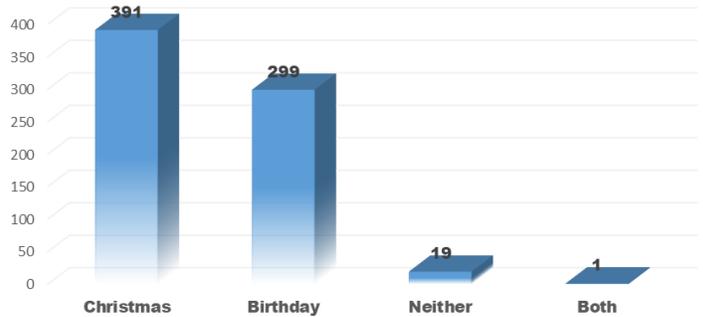
FAVORITE BOOKS



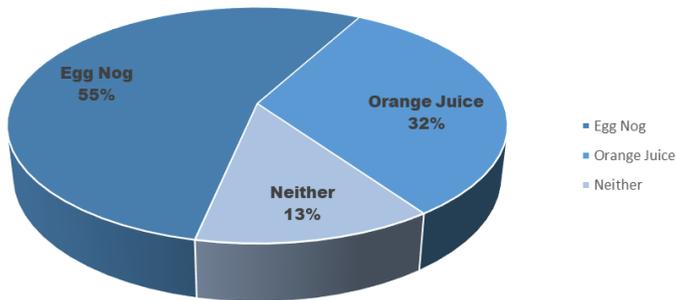
FAKE TREE OR REAL TREE?



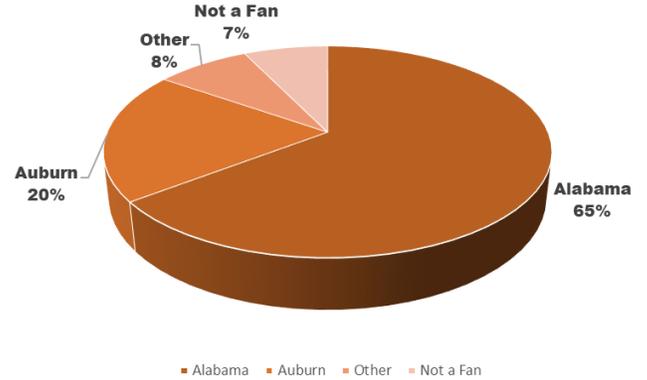
WOULD YOU RATHER NOT CELEBRATE YOUR CHRISTMAS OR YOUR BIRTHDAY?



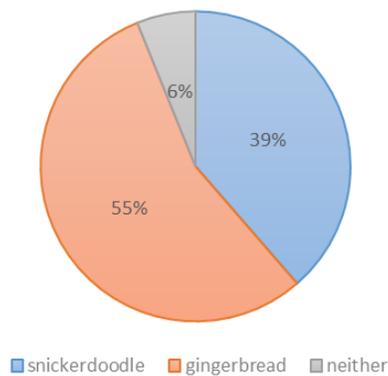
Egg Nog or Orange Juice



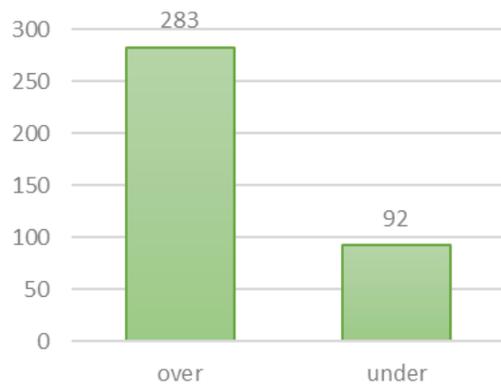
Alabama or Auburn



Snickerdoodle vs Gingerbread



Toilet paper





TOP 11 FAVORITE BOOKS IN MOODY HIGH SCHOOL

By Millie Gilbert

<i>The Outsiders</i>	<i>Night</i>
<i>Book Thief</i>	<i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i>
<i>Harry Potter</i>	<i>Percy Jackson</i>
<i>Hunger Games</i>	<i>Cat in the Hat</i>
<i>Selection</i>	<i>Looking Glass Wars</i>
<i>The Glass Castle</i>	

For the 62 of you who marked “none,” here are some other suggestions:

<i>Stranger than Fanfiction</i>	<i>The Hot Zone</i>	<i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i>
<i>A Series of Unfortunate Events</i>	<i>Great Gatsby</i>	<i>The One</i>
<i>Reaper</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>The Giving Tree</i>
<i>Devil’s Arithmetic</i>	<i>The Dangerous Days of Daniel X</i>	<i>The Creeping</i>
<i>No Easy Pay</i>	<i>A Child Called It</i>	<i>The Kite Runner</i>
<i>The Fault in Our Stars</i>	<i>Prince and the Frog</i>	<i>All the Bright Places</i>
<i>The Giver</i>	<i>Picture of Dorian Gray</i>	<i>Hatchet</i>
<i>The Ray</i>	<i>Eragon</i>	<i>1989</i>
<i>The Hate You Give</i>	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	<i>Jane Eyre</i>
<i>Milk and Honey</i>	<i>Shatter Me</i>	<i>Through the Looking Glass</i>
<i>Numbering the Stars</i>	<i>Maze Runner</i>	<i>You Know Where to Find Me</i>
<i>Warrior</i>	<i>The Gifting Series</i>	<i>A Clockwork Orange</i>
<i>Gone With the Wind</i>	<i>Brave New World</i>	<i>Paper Princess</i>
<i>Becoming of Noah Show</i>	<i>Slated</i>	<i>Looking Glass Wars</i>
<i>The Uglies</i>	<i>Animal Farm</i>	<i>The Big League</i>
<i>Ignite Me</i>	<i>American Gods</i>	<i>Where The Red Fern Grows</i>
<i>How to Dissappear</i>	<i>A Certain Scientific Railgun</i>	<i>Miss Peregrine’s Home for Particular Children</i>
<i>Divergent</i>	<i>The Green Mile</i>	<i>Noon</i>
<i>The Wolf Princess</i>	<i>Adulthood</i>	<i>Bunheads</i>
<i>Frankenstein</i>	<i>The Cay</i>	<i>Fable Haven</i>
<i>Unwound</i>	<i>Red Green</i>	<i>Gallagher Girl</i>
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	<i>Wrinkle in Time</i>	<i>Out of My Mind</i>
<i>Sarah’s Key</i>	<i>Paper Towns</i>	<i>Unbroken Kiss</i>
<i>Alice Adventures in Wonderland</i>	<i>Maximum Ride</i>	<i>Winnie the Pooh</i>
<i>Code of Honor</i>	<i>Tale of Despereaux</i>	<i>5th Wave</i>
<i>Matched</i>	<i>Kane Chronicles</i>	<i>Dances with Wolves</i>
<i>Heist Society</i>	<i>Note to Myself</i>	<i>Doll’s House</i>
<i>Alex Rider</i>	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	



Christmas Tradition

Origins



By: Odalys Ordonez

During this most 'wonderful time of the year,' many families around the country begin to deck their halls with wreaths of festive reds and evergreens, sprinkled with warm glowing lights, and many more await the traditional present opening on December 25th. Many of these popular traditions we associate with the Christmas season actually originated from Pagan traditions that morphed their meanings in order to accommodate to the Christianization of Europe throughout the Middle Ages. Below are some of the more popular traditions and their origins.

The Christmas tree: Fir evergreens were used in many Celtic homes during Winter Solstice festivals and Roman temples during their Saturnalia celebrations. They were representations of the spring to come. After the Christianization they represented everlasting life.

Santa Claus: The original jolly old man was St. Nicholas, a bishop born around 270 A.D. in what is currently known as Turkey. He became famous for his generosity and left gifts for children, often depicted in red and white robes.

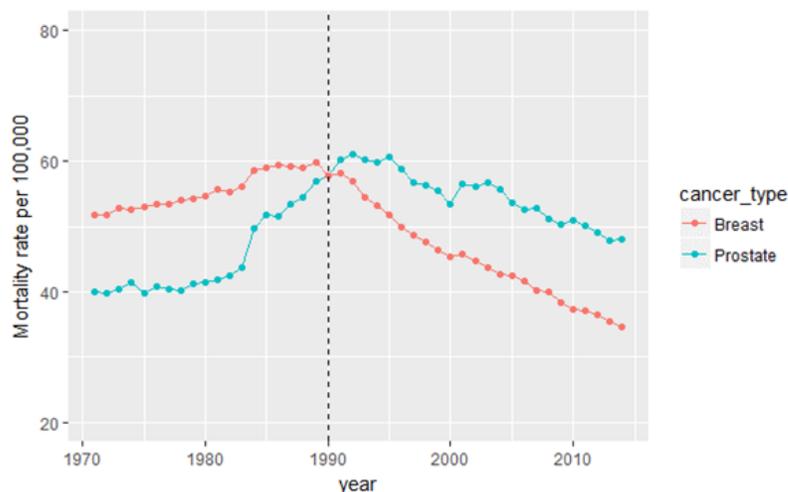
Red and Green: Many believe that the Victorians color-coded the holiday season, but in reality it dates back to the Pagan Celts. These colors represented fertility and prosperity to come after the Winter Solstice.

Wreaths & Holly: Ancient Celts utilized boughs of Holly during Yule, a celebration of the birth of the sun, to represent everlasting life. The circular shape originated from the Romans, who wore "coronas" which were circular crowns they wore on their heads to commemorate warriors.

Cookies and milk for Santa: Although taking off in the United States during the Great Depression, this tradition goes back to ancient Norse mythology and the Slavic Pagans. It was said that Odin, the most important Norse god, rode his eight-legged horse Sleipner on his travels. Children would leave food out for Sleipner in hopes that Odin would stop and leave presents in return.

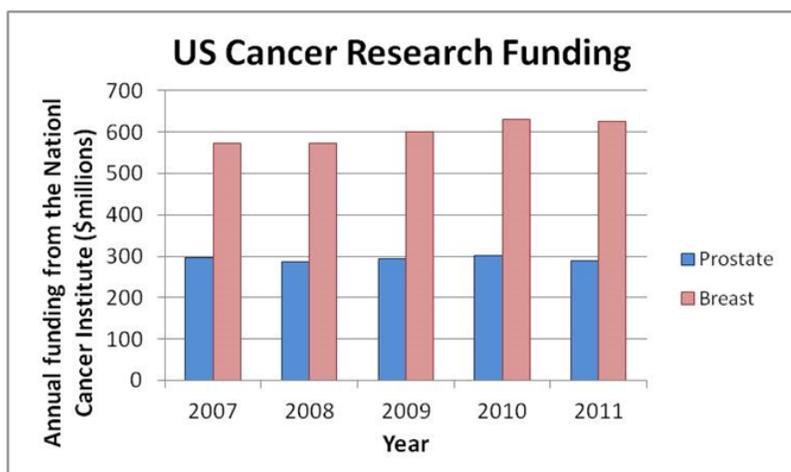
PROSTATE CANCER: UNAWARENESS AND UNDERFUNDING

Millie Gilbert



October is widely known as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, where *Real Men Wear Pink*. The not-so-widely known Prostate Cancer Awareness Month occurs in November. Despite “No Shave November” being discussed on the daily during the month, many people

I have talked to do not know these were supposedly instituted to raise awareness for prostate cancer, even though, currently, more deaths per year are attributed to prostate cancer than are attributed to breast cancer. However, funding in the United States does not reflect this, as it has been dramatically in favor of breast cancer in past years.



In speculating this, one could come to the possible conclusion that the glorification of women and the rise of feminism has led to this gap. The rise of awareness of women's rights has led to a seemingly more equal standing of men and women, but in reality, has lessened

the importance of men's rights. Prostate cancer is more deadly than breast cancer, and deserves as much attention as breast cancer even though it does not cosmetically impact men in the way it does women.



SENIOR INTERVIEWS

By Keturah Miles

Jasmine Thompson

What are your plans for after college?

- I've been accepted into JSU and I plan on studying nursing.

Why did you pick the school you are going to?

- Because it's close to home and I like the nursing program.

What are you going to miss the most about high school?

- The people and not being able to make more memories in the school.

Did high school go by fast?

- Yeah, it did, way too fast.

Are you ready for graduation?

- I really don't think I am but I'm ready for the opportunities I will have.

Justin Blankenship

What are your plans for after graduation?

- I'm going to JSU to pursue a career in the sports management field.

Why did you pick the school you are going to?

- I picked Jacksonville State because they offered me a scholarship, and it's still close to home.

What are you going to miss most about high school?

- I'm going to miss the dances and color wars.

Did high school seem to go by fast?

- High school went really fast, it seems like I was a freshman not too long ago.

Are you ready for graduation?

- I'm kind of ready but at the same time I'm not. I want to have more freedom but I don't want to have more responsibilities.

James Collins

What are your plans for after graduation?

- After graduation, I'm going to attend JSU and walk on for basketball.

Why did you choose the college you're going to?

- I chose JSU because they have a great athletics program.

What are you going to miss most about high school?

- I think I'll miss seeing my friends on a daily basis.

Did high school seem to go by fast?

- Yes, a little too fast.

Are you ready for graduation?

- Yes, I'm ready to see what the real world is like.

Rebecca Mhagama

What are your plans for after graduation?

- I plan to study political science at UA.

Why did you pick the school you're going to?

- Alabama has the #1 law school in the state of Alabama, and they gave me a good amount of scholarships.

What are you going to miss most about high school?

- Competing with my culinary team.

Are you ready for life after graduation?

- Not as of now, but I will be after graduation.



Moody Mad Libs

By Mrs. Reymann's
Creative Writing class

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Santa Claus is a/an _____ (adjective) man who wears a/an _____ (adjective) _____ (color) suit with a/an _____ (adjective) belt and a _____ (adjective) _____ (color) hat. He has a long _____ (adjective) _____ (color) beard and his _____ (part of body) shakes like jelly when he laughs. Every Christmas he rides a _____ (noun) full of presents, pulled by _____ (number) _____ (animal) high into the night sky. Santa _____ (verb) down the chimney of people's homes to leave _____ (plural noun), _____ (plural noun), and _____ (plural noun) under their Christmas trees.

A Christmas Injury

It was one Christmas night and Santa was getting ready to ride his _____ (color) sleigh. He suddenly was _____ (verb) by a _____ (noun) and fell off. It hears that Santa had broken his _____ (bone or body part) and he couldn't ride his sleigh to _____ (location). Santa said he only needed _____ (number) minutes to recover but it was far too long to be able to get back on and deliver the presents. His elf dressed in _____ (color) helped him up, along with _____ (number) more of his elves. They managed to bring him to the emergency room and they realized he was carrying a _____ (adjective) bag full of _____ (noun ending with s). The elves took the bag and set him in a bed, planning to spread out and substitute for Santa. They were able to cover everywhere except for _____ (location). Those kids were naughty anyway. The end.

A Moody High School Christmas

Moody High School. A place abundant with education, and also _____ (adjective) teachers. Despite this, the students and teachers alike celebrated the holidays with just as much _____ (emotion) as their little hearts could muster. Especially Christmas. The hallways were lined with colorful streamers of red and green. Strings of lights adorned the walls of the classrooms, and the smell of _____ (smell) lingered even after the school day was over. One teacher, _____ (teacher name), wasn't satisfied with this celebration. It kept the kids from thinking about what really mattered. Their education. "I have to do something about this _____ (adjective) nightmare." (S)He huffed, looking out from his/her sparsely decorated room to the _____ (adjective) hallways. By the water fountain sat _____ (Christmas character). This gave the teacher an idea. (S)He would destroy Moody's Christmas and gift the _____ (adjective) students new lessons.

When the _____ (adjective) school darkened at closing time, (s)he was ready. Taking _____ (office supply), (s)he began cutting at the _____ (plural noun) throughout the school. The _____ (plural noun) too were demolished. (S)He finished the job with a _____ (adjective.) grin. "I am too _____ (adjective)." _____ (teacher name) sighed.

The following morning was filled with the _____ (sound) of _____ (adjective) students. "_____ (teacher name), come to my office." Boomed the principal, who clearly didn't have any idea how important a _____ (noun) is to a school. Fun, fun, fun was Moody High School at Christmas time.



THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-ACCEPTANCE

Being a teenager can be difficult. It is a time when people are struggling to define themselves, form their own ideas, pursue their own interests, and shape their identities. It is a time of self-consciousness and insecurity. Peers are judgmental. Everyone simply wants to be accepted for who they are. The LGBTQ youth are accepted in society now more than ever, but self-acceptance is still lacking within LGBTQ youth. While we worry about whether or not others will accept us for who we are, we first must learn to accept ourselves as who we are and be confident in our own identities.

Coming to terms with my sexuality was difficult to say the least. I worried about what my peers would think, how my parents would react, and how I would ever find the “perfect someone” for me—but none of that would matter if I didn’t accept myself first.

Realizing who you are and loving yourself is a huge step towards acceptance and happiness. Statistics from Pew Research show that society is more accepting nowadays than it ever has been. Even though society is embracing us, we need to work on ourselves to be successful and happy.

Over seventy percent of hate crimes against the LGBT community are committed by people who are struggling with their own sexuality. LGBTQ youth suicide rate is increasing as the years pass and it has yet to decrease. The rap artist Macklemore refers to this in a song titled “Same Love” when he says, “some would rather die than be who they are.” It does not matter if society accepts you or not; you must accept yourself to truly be happy in your own skin.

I was terrified to come out to my family. I was worried how they would view me, if they would still let me still have friends of the same sex spend the night at my house, their reaction if I started dating someone of the same sex, if they would still be proud of me. After finally gathering the courage to tell them, I realized just how silly my fears were. My parents were very supportive, and they didn’t care who I loved as long as I was happy and they treated me well. The same goes for my friends. My friends still loved and cared for me. I overthought way too much because I didn’t fully accept myself. I felt so alone and misunderstood that I made myself believe that I **deserved to feel that way.**

Growing up, I always knew I was different from my other peers. I never had crushes on boys in my classes; I never thought about having a boyfriend; I never really had one of those daydreams about a guy I thought was cute because I never knew a boy who I was attracted to. When I realized that I was attracted to the same sex, I held it in. I was scared about coming out because so many people do not support same sex marriage or gender equality, viewing homosexuality as disgusting

and immoral. Those people are entitled to their opinions and have the right to their own beliefs; however, I also felt that I had a right to my own happiness. While I was unhappy and hiding a part of myself, I still held on to the fear of being rejected and abandoned due to the beliefs of others. This is where acceptance comes in to play. Even though I felt wrong about being attracted to females, I felt a huge weight being lifted off my shoulders when I finally said to myself that I was a lesbian. It was like an anchor was finally lifted off of me and I could finally breathe. I understand that not everyone will agree with my identification as a lesbian, but I also understand that what truly is important is my belief in myself.

Do not be ashamed to be yourself. I once read a quote that said, "Being gay is like being left handed. Some people are, most people aren't, and nobody really knows why. It's not right or wrong. It's just the way things are!" That quote really stuck with me. We cannot change who we are or who we are attracted to. It's a part of us that will never go away or fade. We must learn to accept who we are and not be ashamed to be ourselves. We need to stop tearing ourselves down and start trying to build ourselves up. We need to stand up and **be proud of who we are!**

'Tis' the Season By Rebecca Mhagama

The holiday season is great time to spend with family, good friends, and food, but it's also a good time to give back. There is no greater present than your time, and a few minutes can change someone's entire day. This year the Moody Miracle League held a Christmas party for some players and their families. The event was so much fun! There were arts and crafts, a picture booth, pictures with Santa, and most importantly, good food. The party was made possible by the parents and sponsors of the Miracle League along with some volunteers. The Moody Miracle League does events like this year round for their players and they're always looking buddies. Remember, the season of giving is every season!

See page: <http://www.moodymiracleleague.org/home/buddies/>



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