



The Raptor's Roar

December 2018

20th Year, No. 3

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

Celebrating
20 Years!

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Vivian Rong gives us a little insight into the history of making resolutions. p. 2

DEAR ROSIE

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SCHOOL NEWS

Rosa students share their talents for a worthy cause and another successful Stars Over Africa. p. 7

WINTER BREAK IDEAS

This issue offers several Winter break activities, vacation ideas and great recipes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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12 Things To Do During Winter Break

Katie Sullivan & Zoe Raditz
Grade 6

1. Spend time with family and friends. Maybe you never see your family and they came to the neighborhood for the holiday. Spending some time with your family is always a good idea for something to do during the holiday season.

2. Drive around and look at the holiday lights. It's always a good idea to ask your parents to drive you around your neighborhood at night. You'd be surprised to know how many people take the time to put up tons of lights

3. Cut paper snowflakes. Want something to pass the time? Or practice your folding skills? Well, then entertain yourself and/or impress your friends with cool snowflake decorations.

4. Stay at home and chill (not literally!) Sometimes the best thing to do is just to stay at home and not do anything. After all the tests and homework you do at

school, you just can't wait for Friday to come. Curl up in a blanket and watch some movies or read a book. Everyone needs a break sometimes!

5. Build a fort. Have some friends over? Maybe you're really bored, and have nothing to do. Then make a huge fort out of blankets, chairs, pillows, and anything else you can find in your house.

6. Bake holiday desserts. Time for a shopping trip! A great thing to do during winter break is to bake some desserts. Also a great plus is that you can eat them afterwards! Get ready to have some fun in the kitchen.

7. Make holiday decorations. It's so fun to make decorations, whether it's a banner, ornament, or maybe a statue - the possibilities are endless!

8. Gift shop for family and friends. Your family and friends have done so much for you. Since it's the holiday season, it's the perfect time to repay them by giving them a gift. It doesn't have to be something big and expensive.

Instead, you can give something inexpensive and from the heart.

9. Donate toys and clothes to your local charity. Maybe you're feeling generous, or just in holiday spirit, you can donate gifts to charity to make someone's day.

10. Earn some money by shoveling snow. You want to find a way to make cash right in your neighborhood? Gather some friends to come and shovel snow with you. Ask some of your close neighbors if it's okay with them and make some easy cash. Just make sure you have the appropriate clothing and a shovel.

11. Play outside. Maybe you're lucky and it snows. You can make a snowman, or have a snowball fight with your sibling or friend!

12. Watch the ball drop on New Year's Eve. Are you ready for 2019? Well, it's just around the corner! Something enjoyable to do as the end of winter break nears is to watch the ball drop on TV with friends and family. You can watch it with your family or at a New Year's Eve celebration with friends. See you in 2019!

Rosa: Then Versus Now – An Interview With Mr. Murtha

By Ellie Noh
Grade 7

You may not know this but the start of the 2018-2019 School Year was special for Rosa International Middle School. It marked the 20th September opening for Rosa. The Raptor's Roar is taking a hike down memory lane and talking to staff members who have been here for most of those years or perhaps even from the very beginning.

One teacher who falls into that longevity category is Mr. Murtha, the music teacher here at Rosa. I asked him some then- and now-questions.

Have you noticed any general changes in Rosa since it became established? What are the major changes at Rosa since its opening?

Answer: Band, orchestra, chorus (etc.) concerts now take place at Cherry Hill High School West. Before, the concerts had taken place in our very own gymnasium. In addition, there had been an increased number of clubs and ensembles/after-school activities. Then, some new classes are Stem, Autistic support, and CAPSS (Communication and Pragmatic Social Skills). Another change is that Rosa no longer takes a staff

picture. There had also been a new administration and new breezeways over the years as well.

Over the years, what improvements have been made to Rosa that have made it a better place?

Answer: Improvements that have been made over the years are new windows and new technology such as laptops, computers, iPads, and etc."

Have there been changes in the way you teach music now compared to how you taught at the start of Rosa?

Answer: Yes, there have been. There is now *see p. 2*

New Year's Resolutions: Making The New Year Better

By Vivian Rong
Editor-in-Chief
Grade 8

We have almost reached the halfway point of the school year. However, the more exciting thing that is on our minds is that the winter holidays are just around the corner and coming our way.

Regardless of which winter holiday – if any – that you and your family celebrate, this fun and spirited season also links to the New Year's resolutions that we always make and *mostly* get to accomplish by the end of the new year. These high expectations we make for ourselves actually have so much more meaning to them. Many of these pledges such as “be more efficient,” “have more free time,” or “get more sleep” actually provide a great amount of insight into ourselves and our own beings.

The first group of people to start making, doing, and believing in New Year's resolutions were actually the ancient Babylonians who started the tradition over

4,000 years ago. The Babylonians date back to 2000 B.C. when they celebrated the new year with semi-annual festivals called the Babylonian festivals of Akiyu.

During this twelve-day celebration, they would celebrate the “rebirth of the natural world.” They planted new crops, crowned a new king, and paid back their debts during this time of the year. The tradition of celebrating a new year then influenced the Romans later on. They started the tradition of good conduct and formed the Roman calendar that we use today, naming January 1 as the day of new beginnings. Their tradition of performing good deeds then became something bigger for us today, of making resolutions for the new year. Each January, besides watching the famous Crystal Ball drop in Times Square to signal a new year, about 40% of the country makes New Year's resolutions.

The reason why people actually make New Year's Resolutions is for the goal of improvement in the year ahead. It is a promise people make for the new year and it

is something that drives us to do our best each and every day.

Among the examples of resolutions many people might make are stopping a bad habit such as procrastination or laziness. Another way to make the new year better may be to develop or start practicing a good habit, be that volunteering at an animal shelter or recycling with more intensity. Here at Rosa, one resolution for students could be increasing one's commitment to community and service.

Regardless of whether you make resolutions or not, the winter holiday season can be among the happiest times of the year. So spend the season well, enjoy snow days if they come, hot cocoa and new gifts. Spread happiness and cheer and be excited to be with family and friends. Plan to watch the ball drop on New Year's Eve. No matter what you celebrate, from the entire Rosa Raptor's staff, we wish you and your family the happiest winter and holiday season!

Looking Back

From cover, Mr. Murtha more equipment such as better guitars, keyboards, and better software.

Are there any things you would like to bring back to Rosa?

Answer: I would like to bring back the staff picture and International Night. (This was an) event (through) which the students got to inform other people about their culture and ethnicity.

What do you like best about teaching here at Rosa?

Answer: What I like best about teaching is that I get to be silly of course, teach music, and best of all, be with the kids. It's great that I get to do things I enjoy here at Rosa and teach music to kids at the same time.

BONUS:

Have you been doing “The Mr. Murtha Show” since the beginning of Rosa?

Answer: The Mr. Murtha Show” has been on for 17 seasons.

Please Pick Me! The Diary Of A Turkey

By Sophia Liu, Humna Hussain,
and Ellie Noh
Grade 7

Editor's note from Mrs. Halden: We know Thanksgiving is over, but we thought you would appreciate if we “talked Turkey” with you and share this conversation from this past Thanksgiving.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln decided to pardon the Thanksgiving turkey. The President did this because his youngest son, Tad, did not want the turkey to die. Pardoning a turkey every Thanksgiving has been a White House tradition ever since! Right before this past Thanksgiving, we conducted an interview with some very special guests: the President and the pardoned turkey himself!

Interviewer: Hello, Turkey! Would you mind answering a few questions about your Thanksgiving turkey experience?

Turkey: No problem.

Interviewer: Great! First, what is your name?

Turkey: My name is Fred, Fred the Turkey.

Interviewer: Nice to meet you, Fred. So, how old are you?

Turkey: Well...My age goes from the prehistoric times. I come from the dinosaurs. I am very special ya know? In the prehistoric times-

Interviewer: Alrighty then...

Turkey: Yes. So let me continue-

Interviewer: What do you think of the tradition of eating Thanksgiving turkeys?

Turkey: Well, you see..... (10 Minutes later) Was that too long of a dramatic pause?

Interviewer: HOW ABOUT I REPEAT THE QUESTION?

Turkey: I'll take that as a yes. You don't have to be so sassy about it. It's not like I took the dramatic pause for ten minutes. *Rolls Eyes*

Interviewer: *Takes a deep breath* Okay. What do you think about the *see p.3*

The Pardoning Of A Turkey

From Pick Me! p. 2 tradition of eating turkeys on Thanksgiving?

Turkey: Ummmmmm. You better not eat me. Anyway, it's pretty sad, dude. I mean like who decided to eat TURKEY on THANKSGIVING? *Sobs*

Interviewer: Well, I mean, turkey is pretty good. Have you ever had it?

Turkey: *clears throat* WELL, DO YOU NOT KNOW WHAT CANNIBALISM MEANS????!?!?!?

Interviewer: Oops, sorry my bad. Next question!

Turkey: By the way you can follow me on Instagram @turkeysrule...

Interviewer: Okay. I will definitely do that... Anyway, if you had to choose, which one of your siblings would you sacrifice to have as Thanksgiving dinner?

Turkey: Oh that one's easy. It would be Sabrina. All she gobbles about is bragging about being the oldest. She's a real jerk-key! Youngest siblings rule!

Interviewer: If you say so, Fred. What are the names of all your siblings? George? I mean Fred. Or whatever your name is.

Turkey: Sarah, Sabrina, Olivia, Oliver, Ethan, Grace, Harry, Houdini...

Interviewer: Okay. Moving on! Anyway, what were you for Halloween this year?

Turkey: This year I was a goblin'. Bahahahahaha!

Interviewer: Ha ha ha ha ha.....

Turkey: Stop making fun of my costume. *sobs again*

Interviewer: Sorry. So, what are you hoping to get for Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa/whatever turkeys celebrate?

Turkey: Well...We celebrate Turkey Lover's Day for your information which is the 3rd Sunday of June.

Interviewer: So, what are you hoping for?

Turkey: I really want a new tooth.

Interviewer: Wow. Interesting.

Turkey: WHY DO YOU KEEP OFFENDING ME? HUH? HUH?

Interviewer: Umm, I think that we have enough information. We should wrap up this conversation. Thank you for your help, Turkey.

Turkey: My name is Fred.

Interviewer: Thanks, Fred.

Fred: You are very welcome.

Interviewer: Okay. Bye!

Fred: Toodles!

Cut to film of Turkey-pardoning ceremony...

President: I am proud to be here today to pardon a turkey from Sleepy Farms.

Fred and the other turkeys gather outside to hear the President.

President: *looks at camera* Hey everyone! I am here to pardon a turkey! Oh look this turkey looks very excited! Maybe I should choose this one!

Points at Fred

Turkey: WOAH!!! HE'S POINTING AT ME! *starts running around in circles*

President: WAIT! Get a shot of this! This turkey is trying to fly!

Turkey: WAIT WHAT? *looks next to him* WAIT THAT'S MY SISTER! SABRINA!?!?!?

Sabrina: As the oldest, I feel that I have the responsibility to win this turkey pardoning competition and represent us as the pardoned turkey. The only way to beat you, Fred, is to show off my flying skills. *flies a few feet in the air*

President: WOW! That's the first turkey ever to fly! This turkey must be chosen as the pardoned turkey! What is this turkey's name, Mr. Farmer?

Mr. Farmer: Sabrina Gobble.

President: Okay, Sabrina will be our pardoned turkey this year!!!!

All Gobbles except Fred: Yay!!!!!! Yeah Sabrina!!!!!!

Fred: Nooooooooooooo!

President: WOAHHHHHH! Did that turkey just talk?

Mr. Farmer: Oh yeah. That is the Sabrina's brother Fred Gobble.

President: Oh then how about we pardon two turkeys this year?

Mr. Farmer: Oh. Whatever you want.

President: Here get this on camera! We will be pardoning two turkeys today!! Thanks for watching! **THE END!!**

Daylight Savings Time – Good Or Bad?

By Daniel Ovadia
Grade 6

On the second Sunday in March, most residents of the United States set their clocks ahead one hour, springing forward. On the first Sunday in November, those same clocks are then turned back one hour until the process repeats the following March. Why do we do this?

It all started when Benjamin Franklin, one of our founding fathers, woke up in Paris, France, one day with the idea of moving clocks forward and back an hour twice a year. You may be thinking, so someone who has been dead for more than 200 years is deciding how time works?

Well yes, but there are good reasons for what is known as Daylight Savings Time. The reason Benjamin Franklin gave in 1784 was that daylight savings could help France save money on candles. In any event, the idea of having daylight last longer in the summer months caught on.

Today, in the 50 states, only Arizona and Hawaii do not follow Daylight Savings Time. There have been debates about discontinuing it but the concept does have fans.

For example, the golfing industry argued before Congress in 1986 that ending Daylight Savings Time would cause it to lose hundreds of millions of dollars because fewer rounds of golf could be played without longer days. Opponents of the concept argue that Daylight Savings Time leads to more money spent on air conditioning. Whatever, for now this is something with which we live, falling back and springing forward.



Tips To Be Flu Free

By Sophia Liu
Grade 7

Flu season is here and it's hard not to catch a cold. Viruses seem to be everywhere: stomach bugs, pneumonia and so on and who wants to be sick during the holidays? Winter is a time to be out building snowmen, sledding, drinking hot cocoa, hanging out with friends and family, and eating good food. You certainly don't want to be lying in bed with a fever.

Therefore, it is important to take care especially good care of yourself during winter. Besides the obvious ways of taking care such as getting a flu shot, bundling up, and staying sanitary, there are other lesser known ways to stay healthy.

Exercise! Getting some exercise provides more pluses to your health than just keeping you fit. In fact, it can reduce the chances of getting a cold by 27%, according to Korean researchers.

Why? Well, according to Bill Schaffner M.D. of Vanderbilt University, "Exercise stimulates the production of epinephrine, which constricts blood vessels in and around your mucous membranes and can relieve nasal discomfort." Basically, it prevents you from getting a stuffy nose.

Meditate! Meditation is nothing to

sneeze at. Researchers from the University of Wisconsin in Maryland stated that people who meditated took 76% fewer sick days than those who didn't. That's a big difference! It's no wonder, either. Meditation calms the mind and relieves stress, which can contribute to getting infected.

Drink tea! Green tea provides a healthy catechin, which is a natural antioxidant, called epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG) that can prevent influenza (flu) viruses from infecting you. This catechin can also help with preventing pneumonia, according to a German study. Besides, green tea is delicious whether it is brewed or iced.

Blanch your greens! Blanching, which is a funny word, means boiling your greens for three or four minutes and then dunking them in ice water to stop the cooking. According to the Journal of Food Protection, heating spinach to 212 degrees Fahrenheit can greatly reduce norovirus, which is similar to the stomach flu. The only downside to this is that blanching can change the flavor of your delicious greens.

Eat honey! If you want a sweetener for the green tea mentioned in number three, try honey! According to the journal, Microbiology, when strep throat bugs were treated with honey, the bacteria count decreased by 85 percent. Besides that, a 2014 Pakistani study found that honey can also help prevent staph, pneumonia, and salmonella.

More Things To Do During Winter Break

By Leila DeVera
Grade 6

How boring can winter break get? There are many ways to make your week spectacular. Here are some ideas for entertaining days!

For one, you can make a Christmas craft or even a Hanukkah craft. You can get scraps from your house and glue them together to make fun decorations. If you want to spend \$5 or so, you can go to the local craft store.

And if there's snow...you might adore sledding. All you have to do is find a sled and snow boots, find an open hill, and sled! Then there's the activity of building a

snowman. Roll three huge snowballs and stick them on top of each other. Grab sticks and a scarf and finish with a hat. Voila! A snowman!

If there is money that can be spent, maybe you and your family can take a vacation during winter break. Another possibility is having a holiday party and inviting over your family, friends and neighbors to share snacks and time together.

The point is there are ways to make winter break holly and jolly. Have a great holiday!

Best Video Games For 2019

By Nate Dominiano
Grade 6

Writer's Note: Please remember ratings are suggestions not laws.

- 1) 1. Warhammer Vermintide
Available on Xbox One and PC-rated for intense violence and blood
- 2) 2. NHL 19
Available on Xbox One and PS4
Rated E
3. Spyro Reignited Trilogy
Available on PS4 and Xbox One
Rated E
4. Call of Duty Black Ops 4
Available on PS4 Xbox One PC-rated M for blood violence and rude themes
5. Assassin's Creed Odyssey
Available on PS4 PC Xbox One
M for violence
6. Shadow of the Tomb Raider
Available on PC Xbox One PS4 M for blood and rude humor
7. Super Mario Party
Available on Nintendo Switch
E for everyone
8. Spiderman on PS4
T for violence
9. Red Dead Redemption 2
Available on PS4 Xbox One as the name states M for blood and bad themes and violence and alcohol
10. God of War
Available on PS4
Rated M for violence and blood





A Cup of Tea

By Abby Yu
Grade 8

Delicate wisps of steam swirl
around

The cup of tea is fresh and
hot.

It has just been poured from
the teapot's spout.

Cup clutched in palms

The warm tingle spreads
through her hands

A cozy feel travels through
the room

Each sip brings a longing
desire for more.

The teapot holds a teacup of
good health

The tea soothes the throat
Calms the mind

And satisfies the taste.

Savored on a frigid, frosty
day

Tea melts and conquers the
cold

As it warms and relieves the
soul.

THE FIRST FOUR WORDS YOU SEE DESCRIBE YOU



Contributed by Maria Beaney, Grade 7

JOKING AROUND

By Erika Tsai
Grae 6

Why did the boy keep his trumpet in the snow?
Because he liked cool music.

What did the snowman have for breakfast?

Frosted snowflakes

What falls in the winter but never gets hurt?

Snow!

What do you have in December and no other month?

The letter D!

How does a penguin build its house?

I-gloos it together!

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

Frostbite!

What does Frosty the Snowman put on burgers?

Chilly Sauce!!

What can you catch in the winter with your eyes closed?

A cold!

What's it called when a snowman has a temper tantrum?

A meltdown!!!

What is a snowman's favorite treat?

Ice Krispy treat!!

Winter Break: Nearby Travel Locales

By Sophia Liu
Grade 7

While some people fly to faraway destinations for winter break - Orlando, Los Angeles, Chicago or even overseas - others stay closer to home.

Without a doubt, having to board a plane to reach your vacation destination can be tedious and annoying, while staying at home can seem less thrilling than traveling. One solution is to travel to a nearby vacation spot. That way you don't need to take a plane and can still get a change of scenery. Here are some ideas for travel spots for winter break.

The Pocono Mountains: The Poconos are under three hours' driving time from Cherry Hill, a miniscule distance compared to vacations that require flight. While close by, the Poconos are completely different from Cherry Hill. Filled with acres of countryside, the Poconos offer beautiful views that cannot be seen from your house in Cherry Hill.

In winter, the Poconos also are a wonderful destination for skiers. There are multiple "ski in, ski out" hotels in the Poconos. Even if you're not a big fan of skiing, there's still plenty for you to do. You can go ice skating, snowboarding, snowshoeing or sleigh riding. Many resorts in the Poconos, such as Camelback Mountain Resort, Great Wolf Lodge, and Kalahari Resort, include indoor water parks and arcades. No matter what you're into and what your favorite winter activities are, the Poconos are a great place for vacation this

year.

New York City: When it's cold outside, New York City has plenty to offer. You can visit museums, go skating in an outdoor skating rink, or watch the Nutcracker. New York City has many museums covering a wide variety of subjects, from art to natural history. You could easily spend an entire day visiting exhibit after exhibit in a museum.

If you don't mind the cold, outdoor ice skating at Rockefeller Center could be a fun activity. You will also be right next to the beautiful Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree. If skating isn't your thing, then you might enjoy going to see "The Nutcracker" at the Pennsylvania Ballet. You'll get to see Clara, the Nutcracker, Drosselmeyer, and the Sugar Plum Fairy come to life through ballet. The new movie, *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms*, may be a big hit, but many will still enjoy the classic Nutcracker ballet.

Niagara Falls: While Niagara Falls is breathtaking at any time of the year, visiting it during the winter can give you a brand-new perspective on the waterfalls. Although the falls are never actually frozen, the ice around the falls create the illusion that they are actually frozen over.

Besides the stunning waterfalls, you can also experience the Niagara Falls Festival of Lights. Displays containing approximately two million lights decorate the Niagara Parkway and the surrounding city. In addition, many of the summer attractions available at Niagara Falls also run during the winter. One such activity is the Journey Behind the Falls attraction. Visitors can

navigate through many tunnels to see the falls from different perspectives as well as watch from the observation decks.

Even though Niagara Falls is a seven-hour drive from Cherry Hill, which makes it more tiring for whomever is driving you, it will definitely be worth it!

Williamsburg, Virginia: Here's another destination that's relatively far from New Jersey. Still, spending just under six hours on the road isn't that bad. If you think about it, if you set off for Williamsburg before noon, you could probably arrive in time to have dinner there.

Once you've reached Williamsburg, there is plenty to do. You can visit Jamestown Settlement and learn about America's beginnings. You can also travel back in time and experience what life was like centuries ago in Colonial Williamsburg. There, you can interact with people from the Revolutionary Era and learn about their trades. For example, you can hear what it was like to own an apothecary and how much or how little medicinal or surgical practice has changed since colonial times. Williamsburg is a city that you should definitely consider paying a visit to this winter!



Some More Great New Year's Resolutions Suggestions

By Giorgio Abdalla
Grade 7

Have you ever seen the calendar marked December 31, and then remembered that you had forgotten to make a New Year's Resolution? There is no need to worry, because it is easy to find one quickly. A new year's resolution is something that you hope to improve about yourself, and you are given a whole year to accomplish this goal. While many New Year's resolutions are health-related, yours can be about practically anything and, in the end, you might even become a better person than you were last year.

If you are stuck about finding a New Year's resolution, here's one: eating healthier foods. In the year 2018, many people ate processed foods, which can cause dietary problems as you grow older. A poll taken in the United Kingdom showed that approximately 38% of people in the world choose healthier diet habits as their New Year's resolution.

Another popular New Year's resolution is to smile more and to be kinder. There are benefits to choosing these as your resolutions. Surveys have shown that smiling towards others can brighten their day, and make you day better as well.

The final popular New Year's resolution to ponder is learning a new skill or habit. About 15% of people in the world wish to learn something new. Not only could learning a new skill be an interesting path to take, it could also be beneficial to you. Studies have shown that learning a new skill like playing the piano, or learning a new language can help increase your brain productivity.

How can you keep your resolutions? One tip is to tell a friend your resolution. If your friends and family are aware of your goal, they will notice your progress and help you to become better. A study shows that only 8% of resolutions *see p. 10*

Stars Over Africa Continue To Shine

By Sophia Liu, Ellie Noh
And Kyle Lehrfeld
Grade 7

For those of you who don't already know, the 2018 version of our Stars Over Africa talent show was a huge success. Hats off to Directors Mrs. Raditz and Mrs. Poller for putting together this phenomenal show. The cast of this show was amazing and the talents that were showcased were out of this world.

This outstanding show helps raise money for our sister school in Kito, Uganda. Our school has helped provide the Awegys School with provisions such as additional classrooms, clean water and supplies. If you were unable to attend this year's show, you may still make a contribution. Kindly see Mrs. Raditz or Mrs. Poller. Every little bit helps. Because there is no price for admission, the money raised at the show is through contributions. Here are some thoughts from the cast as they rehearsed for the show, held on Friday, November 30.

Elisabeth Yap - 8th Grade
Elisabeth played piano while Amelia Calzaretto sang *The Rose*. "I had a great time at rehearsals," said Elisabeth. "We put in a lot of work."

Katie Nguyen and Nico Zhang - 7th Grade
Katie Nguyen and Nico Zhang were dancing partners in the show. They introduced a style of dance that they hoped would "wow the crowd." If that was their mission, it was a

success. "We hope everybody (liked) the acts. We had a really fun time working with everybody."

Nysa Chawla and Ajuni Oberoi - 7th Grade

Nysa and Ajuni did a style of upbeat Indian dancing. They also impressed the crowd with their amazing choreography. Before the show the pair explained: "We've been dancing together for several years and we can't wait to introduce this style of dance to Rosa."

Olivia Hung - 8th Grade
Olivia performed a solo Karate act with a sword. Before the show, Olivia reported that she practices this talent act "2-3 times a week" and that she has been doing karate for seven years! What does she enjoy about Stars Over Africa? She's having fun and it's a fundraiser that helps people in Uganda.

Jeremy Radan- 7th Grade
Jeremy is a rising star on the stage. This was his second year performing in Stars Over Africa. Both years he played piano. Last year he composed his own music! He said he quite enjoyed the experience of both this year and last year. "I love Stars Over Africa. Auditions," Jeremy said before the show.

Gavin Gershon- 7th Grade
Gavin is not new to the stage. This year he did a singing, harmonica, and piano trio to Billy Joel's *Piano Man*. Three things! His performance was one to be remembered. Before the show, Gavin told us: "I like performing. I was nervous for the auditions but got used to it along the way."



Rosa's own Zesty Pickles perform at Stars Over Africa

Harry Potter, More Voldemort Than Voldemort?

By Maxwell Wang
Grade 6

Spoiler Alert: Attention Harry Potter Fans - If you do not know the entire story of the horcruxes, then DO NOT READ THIS!

As all Harry Potter fans know, a part of Voldemort's soul lives inside Harry, as he is also a Horcrux. But could that little piece of Voldemort's soul inside of Harry be more than Voldemort's own soul?

The first Horcrux Voldemort created was Tom Riddle's Diary with the death of Moaning Myrtle in 1943. This halved soul to 50 percent from 100 percent. The second

Horcrux created was Marvolo Gaunt's Ring which halved his soul from 50 percent to 25 percent. This was in 1945.

The third Horcrux created was Salazar Slytherin's Locket and that made his soul go from 25 percent to 12.5 percent. Now, the fourth Horcrux was Helga Hufflepuff's Cup and this changed his 12.5 percent to 6.25 percent.

Voldemort then asked the Grey Lady for her mother's diadem whereabouts. She gave it to Voldemort and he then created his fifth Horcrux, Rowena Ravenclaw's Diadem in 1956. That changed his soul percent to 3.125 percent.

Then on the night in 1981 that Harry's parents, Lily and James Potter, died, he

created the sixth Horcrux, Harry, himself. Harry had 1.5625 of Voldemort's soul, which Voldemort didn't know about because his curse against Harry rebounded back at him and made his form into a ghost-like-state.

Lastly, when Voldemort was reborn, he created Nagini in 1994, his seventh and last Horcrux which left him at 0.78125 percent soul.

This means that from the *Goblet of Fire* forward, Harry had more of Voldemort's soul than Voldemort. This is because Harry has 1.5625 percent of Voldemort's soul while Voldemort himself only had 0.78125 percent soul left. So, is Harry more Voldemort than Voldemort?

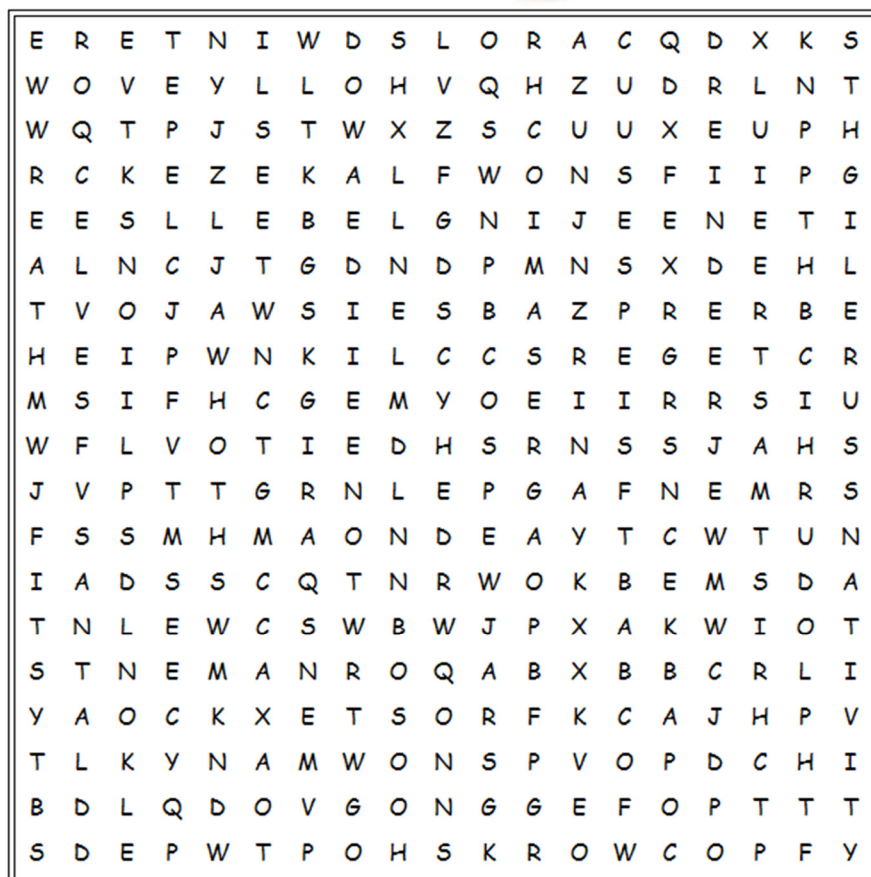
WINTER PUZZLE

Submitted by Katie Silverman, Grade 7

E A R B H A V K W I R E A G R E A T
N T E



WORD SEARCH



WORD BANK

Angel
Candy Cane
Carols
Christmas Tree
Decorate
Eggnog
Elves
Gingerbread
Holly
Jack Frost
Jingle Bells
Joy
Lights
Mistletoe
Nativity
North Pole
Ornaments
Presents
Reindeer
Rudolph
Santa
Sleigh
Snowflake
Snowman
Stocking
Winter
Workshop
Wreath

Dear Rosie

Dear Rosie,

I have been having numerous difficulties getting from class to class on time with all of the correct books. In September, the teachers gave us a break and would let us go to our lockers on the occasional mishap. But now it's December! I need some sort of help. Any suggestions?

Thanks,
Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

You have come to the right place! Remembering all of our books is a constant struggle for all of us once in a while. And, of course, once in a while, we will have days where it happens. However, there are several ways to minimize the number of times this happens.

The first tool is the whiteboard. Now, it might sound crazy, but crazy can be good! If you take a bulletin board or a whiteboard, you can write the books that you will need before and after lunch on the board (or pin notecards onto a bulletin board), you will be able to look at your board and then take those books in the morning and afternoon. Now you might be asking yourself, "What if I forget to write on the board?" There is a very simple answer to that. Write the books on the board for the following day. That way it will be set up for the next day.

Next, there is a song. You wouldn't believe it, but writing a song is actually one of the most efficient ways to memorize anything, including books. For example, you could write a song like "Monday, Language A, Humanities, World Language, lastly comes Science.

Lastly, we have colors. You can organize your AC schedule with colors that correspond with your binder colors. For example, if your Humanities binder is orange and you have Humanities AC1, then you would color your AC1 orange. This way you will grab your orange binder when you see orange. You won't even have to know what class that is.

Hope this helps!
Your friend,
Rosie

Dear Rosie,

I have been having quite a few problems balancing my school and my fun. In other words, I would love to have all As in my classes, but if that means that I cannot go on a bike ride with my friend ever again, I would be ok with a B+. However, I want good grades and to have fun. I know that this might be a difficult question to answer, but if you have any suggestions, that would be amazing! Thank you so much!

From,
Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

This is struggle that I am sure that everyone at Rosa has faced at one point or another. The jump from grade to grade can be quite difficult in terms of studying and homework and can easily send someone toppling over the hill. The trick is to not let it push you down. If you get 100% on a test, that's great! But, if you study for 6 hours to get that grade, maybe you should find a way to get a 97% and only study for 3 hours.

There is no guarantee that if you do certain things you will do well in school but there are ways you can help yourself.

Get rid of the phone. Put it in another room or shut it off. This is one of the biggest distractions that you will ever face in life. If it rings in the middle of your study session, it takes you a whole three minutes to come back to focus! Three minutes! This can make your study session take much longer than necessary, keeping you away from your friends for an even longer period of time. Hope this helps!

Your friend,
Rosie



Opinion Column: Why Chicken Nuggets Are The Greatest

By David Okungbowa
Grade 8

Ah, the glory that is chicken nuggets. They are virtually THE BEST food ever. But what makes them so good? And which ones are the best? Let's delve into the history, awesomeness and sheer power that is the chicken nugget.

Let's start off with the history of the universe - uh, I mean, chicken nuggets. This mesmerizing delicacy was made in the 1950s by a man named Robert C. Baker, who was a food science professor at Cornell University.

For those unlucky people who may not know how a chicken nugget is made, here's the explanation. Small pieces of chicken are coated in batter, then deep fried or baked. Incredible, right? Believe it or not, Baker and some of his students designed many meat-based snacks, including hot dogs, chicken meatballs, and many other foods.

Baker's innovations in the world of poultry allowed chicken (and all those other meats) to be molded into virtually any shape. This may seem pretty simple, but back then, a challenge for the meat industry was creating something that could hold together without a skin, that could withstand being frozen or deep-fried. The chicken nugget was one of the first meat products able to do that.

Obviously, this pretty much makes the invention of the chicken nugget one of man's most historical and revolutionary achievements. Now that I have established that the chicken nugget is the most glorious, wonderful, powerful and revered food in all of history, the remaining question is which nuggets are the best.

A recent survey of the Raptor's Roar staff provides some insight. Of the 17 staffers polled this particular day, 10 persons voted for Chick-fil-a, with the other votes divided among Wendy's, Burger King, McDonald's and KFC.

So now you know: Chick-fil-a makes a mean nugget. Hopefully you agree that chicken nuggets are the source of happiness, joy, and practically every good thing in the universe. Life as we know it would not be possible without the blessing that is the chicken nugget. The very moment that the chicken nugget graced the Earth, the world became a much better place. Happy Holidays!

More Resolutions

From Resolutions, p. 6 are actually fulfilled, but you can increase that percentage if you work with someone.

Another tip to achieve your New Year's resolution is to keep a progress notebook/calendar. If you fill your calendar daily, and assess yourself properly, you can see your progress. If you are able to see the changes from where you started, and where you are now, that means you are on the right path and on your way to achieving your goal. If not, don't panic, just keep moving forward.

And don't be discouraged by the 8% success rate of resolutions. Change can happen in 2019!

What's to Know About the New iPhone XS

By Ryder Hopkins
Grade 6

Many people probably know about the new iPhone XS. Without a doubt, the XS is the best, most improved iPhone yet. It includes the largest display on an Apple iPhone, an even faster face ID, and the smartest, most powerful chip on a smartphone. Plus, it can store so much more compared to iPhones in the past.

On the iPhone XS, Apple has decided to make buttons a thing of the past. Apple started that when they turned the iPhone 7 and iPhone 8's home screen buttons into

sensors. However, now, instead of a button that recognizes your fingerprint or a button to bring up Siri or the home screen, the phone uses the action of swiping up or other various things. Who knows? Maybe someday they won't even have a power button.

There are so many improvements that happened to the XS. One of those things is charging. When you charge your phone, you probably have a long annoying plug that you have to find the end of and push into your phone. Often, when you have multiple plugs, it gets a bit messy and tangled. No more. All that hassle is eliminated by the new charging pad! The charging pad is basically a rubber pad on which you put the iPhone XS. Automatically, the phone starts charging. Talk about convenience!

One of the big inconveniences of the XS is its 4K resolution with HDR support, and a huge display. Well you might be thinking what's bad about that? Actually, wireless carriers like T-Mobile, Verizon and AT&T only allow you to stream videos at the pitiful resolution of 480p unless you cough up a few more bucks each month. Even though you paid the money, most wireless carriers only let you bump it up to a max of 720p which is equivalent to watching a movie from 2002. Plus, even if you're connected to WIFI, it probably means you are able to watch something on a bigger and better screen like a TV.

Everyone's probably afraid of cracking their phone. It's probably one of a phone owner's biggest fears. Well, the iPhone XS has the strongest glass ever put onto a phone. This is a big advantage when you accidentally drop your phone on a hard surface such as a sidewalk.

Pricing? The iPhone XS costs around \$1,000 depending on the options you choose.

Mexican-Hot Chocolate Cookies (Martha Stewart's Recipe)

By Tori Rose
Grade 8

INGREDIENTS

2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
2 teaspoons cream of tartar
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ coarse salt
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
1 ¾ cups sugar
2 eggs
2 teaspoons cinnamon
½ teaspoon chili powder (optional)



DIRECTIONS

* Preheat oven to 400 degrees, with racks in upper and lower thirds. In a medium bowl, sift together flour, cocoa powder, cream of tartar, baking soda, and salt. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat butter and 1 1/2 cups sugar on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Scrape down side of bowl. Add eggs and beat to combine. With mixer on low, gradually add flour mixture and beat until combined.

* In a small bowl, combine remaining 1/4 cup sugar, cinnamon, and chili powder (if using). Using heaping tablespoons, form balls of dough and roll in cinnamon-sugar mixture. Place, about 3 inches apart, on two parchment-lined baking sheets. Bake until cookies are set in center and begin to crack, about 10 minutes, rotating sheets halfway through. Let cookies cool on sheets on wire racks 5 minutes, then transfer cookies to racks to cool completely. (Store in an airtight container, up to 1 week.)



The Write Stuff

By Giorgio Abdalla
Grade 7

Recently, on Tuesday, October 5, 2018, Rosa International Middle School had the wonderful honor of hosting New York Times Bestselling author, Mr. Alan Gratz. Mr. Gratz is a widely-read and well-loved author of many books including Refugee, Code of Honor, Grenade, Projekt 1065, and many more amazing pieces of literature. When Mr. Gratz visited our school, he gave a presentation about his books, and later held a question and answer session in the library.

Mr. Alan Gratz was born on January 27, 1972. He attended the University of Tennessee, and began his writing career immediately following graduation. In 2006, Mr. Gratz published the novel Samurai Shortstop. The story follows the historical fiction genre, and started a pathway for the other historical fiction works he has created. Later, Mr. Gratz created other award-winning novels such as Ban That Book, The League of Seven Series, Fantasy Baseball, Code of Honor, and other works of fiction, historical fiction and fantasy. During his career, Mr. Gratz has earned several awards including Goodreads Choice Awards, Best Middle Grade & Children's Award, Audie Award for Middle Grade, and a New York Times Bestseller designation for his book

Refugee.

Students who attended the Q&A with Mr. Gratz raved about the experience and some even described it as life-changing. For example, Juan Abalor, LC 3, said that "meeting Mr. Gratz was like meeting a hero, it was an honor." Anna Neubauer, LC 6, said "it was so fun, and I wish it was longer because it was a great experience."

Kyle Lehrfeld, LC 4, who did not attend the Q&A said experiencing the large group presentation and then hearing about the Q&A from other students has caused him to "look at books in a new light. I notice more hints and clues now." Another student, Avi Shohas of LC 6, stated, "I would describe this experience as an opportunity to receive advice from someone with professional writing experience and a chance to learn about the significance of historic events in his books."

Many of the students here at Rosa are interested in Mr. Gratz's works. If you are interested in reading some of his titles, you might want to start with Refugee. This story follows three different characters in different events, all having one goal: to escape to a better life. Another favorite of students who have read Mr. Gratz widely is Ban This Book. This fiction takes readers through the life of a fourth grade girl and allows other children to read books banned by the school library. A special thank you to Mr. Gratz for coming to our school.

We got a list of supplies from the leader. It included food, water, clothes, and sleeping bags so we could sleep. The trip will take 18 days each way and 4 days in the wormhole to get to Earth itself. The portal can only be opened twice by one person so it's a good thing there are two of us go.ng, just in case.

"Kolont, we're gonna miss the hover-bus, our only mode of transport, come on!" I yelled

"Jocealyn, just calm down. The hover-bus doesn't come for an hour, jeez Louise," Kolont yelled back.

"I heard that!" I yelled, annoyed. "There's another bus at 12:00, so hurry!" I screamed with vigor. Our parents are out-of-town so the bus is our only hope of getting around.

Our mission was simple, get humans to destroy each other and Earth in the process. Our shopping trip consisted of four where we would purchase shoes, food, clothes, and sleeping supplies. Luckily, most people will be at work so the stores will be practically empty.

The worker at the food store was super chatty and took forever. The second clerk, at the clothing store, gave us odd looks and wasn't nearly as friendly.

Although we did buy a significant quantity of clothes, some were too big. Our problem at the camping center was that the worker was new and this resulted in bad service. At our last stop, we could only find one type of shoe that fit.

"Jocealyn, we'll never be done at this rate! Honestly, the ones we have are fine. Let's go. NOW!" Kolont remarked. He doesn't understand fashion. And probably never will.

We even met this stray dog. The dog, now named Clover, lives with Kolont until we can adopt him, or find the owner. Our favorite thing to do before the city's automated lights go out is play a game. Right now, we sort out what each of us will bring, and what is mine and what is Kolont's.

"All right. If we're all done, then I better head home so I'll still have light to use," Kolont said with a sigh.

I barely managed to say goodbye before he *see p. 12*

Secret Mission To Earth

Inspired by Rod Sterling's "Monsters Are Due On Maple Street"

Retold by Maria Beaney
Grade 7

"The leader will see you now," said the crazy secretary.

"Ugh, she has always creeped me out." I was always a big scaredy cat. And always afraid to fail.

"Sure. Remember second grade? You wouldn't go on the trip, baby! You've always been afraid of her." There was Kolont. He was the biggest phony in the galaxy, my best friend although he can be annoying. I was only his friend because no one will mess with him.

"What do you think the leader wants from us?" I questioned. "Ooh, maybe a promotion." I squealed.

"Or maybe we're being fired, silly. Why else would the LEADER want to see us?" said Kolont.

We walked down the omniscient hallways, a labyrinth of doors and offices. There were carpets with stains so old it would never be fully clean. The walls were decorated with ugly wallpaper, peeling so badly you could see the white plaster inside. Both the carpet and walls had mystery stains covering the once magnificent hallways.

I loved to quiz Kolont, but then he would get mad at me and try to lock me in a closet.

"I wonder what the reward will be," I said to no one in particular

Kolont answered: "How do you know there even is to be a reward?"

"I just know," I answered. I am probably the only one who can get him to shut up.

That was two days ago. Our mission from the leader has to do with Earth.

The Mission Continues

from *Secret Mission*, p. 11 shut the door.

"We've gotta tell our parents," I say into the receiver. "They deserve to know. Imagine when they get back and we're not home? They'll be terrified and, real mad when we get back. The trip takes 44 days, 22 days each way with one stop in each direction," I explain.

"Yeah, but the leader said to tell NO ONE, so no telling our parents," Kolont argued. "Although....my parents are worry warts," he trailed on.

"So it has been decided; I will tell our parents. K? K. Bye." I hang up before he can object. Oh well. I walk down the empty street towards Kolont's house with my dog, Clover. I have a problem.



Venom

By Jack Rellosa
Grade 7

Venom is the new movie in Sony's Spiderman series. Reviews on this movie are mixed. Some people say the movie is a cash grab by Sony, others say it's a great addition to the Spiderman movies.

The movie is about Eddie Brock and his struggles to take down The Life Foundation and its devilish experiments. While investigating, Eddie is fused with an alien known as Venom. Venom gives Eddie super strength, and the iconic black form that terrifies his enemies. Will Eddie be able to stop the Life Foundation?

Rosa - A Beehive Of Activities

By Diana Sosa
Grade 8

Rosa has been a busy place over the past few months with many, many events.

First off, the first marking period is over, which is insane, since many students probably wish it had been longer so their grades could have been helped out a little bit.

In terms of activities, National History Day is in full-swing for 8th graders. The demanding club that has students work months and many, many hours on a project related to a theme has been meeting regularly.

"Stars Over Africa" Talent Show to benefit the Awegys School in Uganda has occurred and was a huge success with terrific acts and a happy crowd.

The Rosa Drama Club is beginning rehearsals for its spring show, which is a musical review with scenes and songs from many popular and beloved Broadway Musicals. Congratulations to the Drama Club members on their parts. Break a leg Rosa Drama Performers!! (but not really; stay safe children :)!)

Fall sports have ended and winter sports have started or are about to start. Boys' and girls' basketball practice, wrestling and cheerleading practices and Rosa's many clubs have been meeting. Student Council members and Peer Leaders have been meeting and doing things to make Rosa a better place.

Members of Rosa's many musical groups are preparing for the Winter Concerts, which take place right before Winter Break. Make sure to go out and support our musical students.

And this is just a partial list! Time for a nap!

The movie had bad reviews because of its depiction of Venom in a more light-hearted way than how he is portrayed in the comics. For example, comic Venom would be almost merciless to his foes, usually ending them or attempting to end them. By contrast movie Venom only knocks them out. The movie was pretty action-filled which made up for some of it, but not all of it. In my opinion, I rate *Venom* a 7/10.

Snow Activities

By Lucie McFadden
Grade 7

Color Fun

Everyone loves to play in the snow, or at least likes to watch it. But what if you could express your artistic side by coloring your path for the winter holidays. This is a unique way to be festive.

The first thing to do is to get a small clean empty spray bottle. You can get these at a dollar store. Then, get some food coloring, available in supermarkets. Once you have these, fill the spray bottle with water. Add the food coloring and shake the bottle with the lid put on. Then spray on the fresh snow. You can make as many spray bottles as you want and turn your neighborhood into a rainbow.

Snow Creatures

I think everyone at some point or another has at least tried to make a snowman. But there are other things you can do besides the basic snowmen. One thing you can make is a caterpillar. You can accomplish this by making multiple snowballs and lining them up and adding personal touches. Maybe even adding some color from the last activity.

Remember, when it snows, take advantage and have some creative fun!



Created by Ryder Hopkins, Grade 6

Holiday Word Search

M M E O R N H S S H J G Y U M F K R P Z
Y U A E O A I A E O L P G R N P R R Z E
O Y E A R S M F K L T U I M O S H D L X
L H N Z H T Q W C I D B D D I Z P Z E E
C K Y H S T A N F D U N H N T K Y X U N
C N I I A N F K O A P P A Z A T D O N H
K M R A Z N N A N Y H E D C R X O O V L
Y H F A J E U R N B F S W F B N Z X S N
C Q A O W F J K G S I R S R E N N I D B
G S T V O S X H K B B E M K L T F H B N
X N V H N D X A S A Q T X G E J O O H T
F I R E W O R K S J H S V X C Y V H G D
A V T I S W X W H Y P A E K U M L Z E H
J N R V Y W Y F B Y O E U J H F H P J T
N P E O T B Q Y L M W S Y W J O R F B N
B N E B Z N V I Y R Q K M T M Q P J B G
F I Z F J A N V V T C A V M D L Z T I H
S Y U Y S Q C C O M S C Z X N Q Y P Y I
H R S A I Q V Y A E M M F K P V C I O D
Y N V X H D J J Z B V N W I J E M Y I E

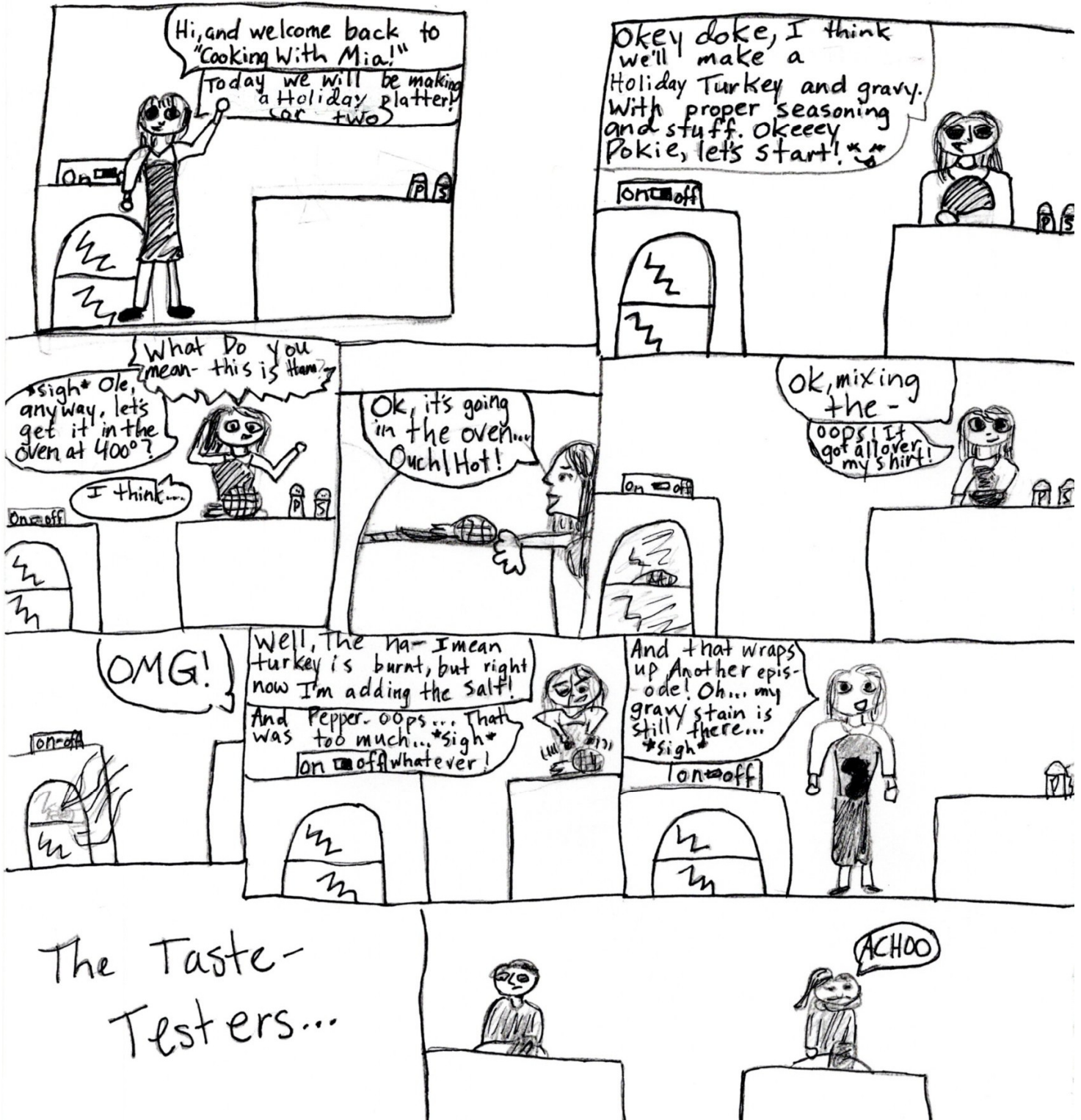
CANDLES
CHRISTMAS
FIREWORKS
HOLIDAY
TREE

CELEBRATION
DINNERS
FOOD
KWANZAA
YEARS

CHEER
EASTER
HANUKKAH
NEW

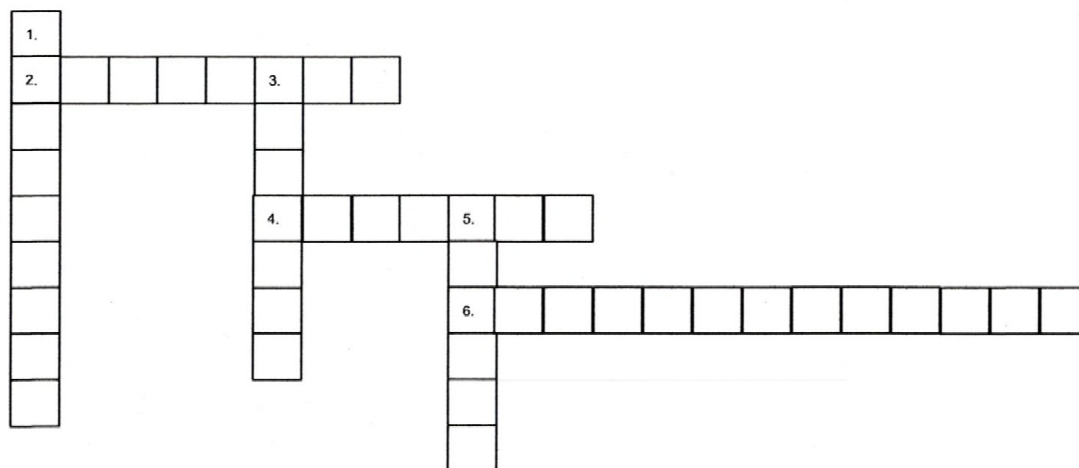
What's Cooking?

by: Zoe Raditz



Holiday Crossword Puzzle

By Maxwell Wang



Up and Down

1. This is a holiday when you put presents under a certain tree.
3. During this holiday you eat Cajun Catfish.

5. This is the holiday when you search for eggs.

Sideways

2. During this holiday you eat latkes.
4. This is when the crystal ball drops in New York.
6. This is the holiday with 4 leaf clovers.

Gift Costs – A List

By Nathan Dominiano
Grade 6

Here's a cost guide for this year's trending holiday gifts:

Fitbits \$100-\$200
Funko pops \$10-\$20
iPad \$200-\$500
MacBook \$600-\$1000
iPhone 10 \$900-\$1200
Alarm clock \$10-\$20
Gift cards
Instrument \$50-\$350
Chromebook \$150-\$300



The following Rosa Chorus members were accepted into the 2019 All South Jersey Chorus:

Akshay Anand
Everett Garcia
Chris Korneyev
James MacCarthy
Brian Mordi
Lucas Tang
Matthew Yeary



December 20 – Vocal, Orff, Recorder Winter Concert

December 21 – January 1 – Winter Break

January 14 – H.S Course of Study Night @ rosa

January 17 – Vocal Recital Night, 7 p.m. @ Rosa

February 4 & 5 – Middle School Information Night @ Rosa

February 13 – C.H. Jazz Showcase, 7 p.m. @ Rosa

February 20 – Spring Sports Parent Meeting, 7 p.m. @ Rosa

February 22 – Friendship Dance, 7 – 9 p.m. @ Rosa

March 6 – Small-Group Ensemble Night



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