



The Blarney Stone

Thursday

December 15th, 2021

Issue #3



December 2021 Christmas Edition

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men." – **Luke 2:14**

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." – **Luke 2:10**

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.." – **Matthew 1:21**

"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." – **Galatians 4:4-5**

"A merry heart does good like medicine." – **Proverbs 17:22**

Written By: Lucy Mast

CHRISTMAS RIDDLES

We traveled from the East, following a bright star, bringing gifts to the newborn King. Who were we? – **3 Wise Men**

Rip this off quickly so it can no longer hide, your precious gift that is concealed inside. What is it? – **Wrapping Paper**

It gets killed. It gets dressed. It gets trinkets, and everyone smiles, looking at its star. What is it? – **Christmas Tree**

Which one of Santa's reindeer can you see in outer space? – **Comet**

What do snowmen like to eat for breakfast? – **Frosted Flakes**



Written By: Clare Steffes

CHRISTMAS BIBLE QUOTES

"Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts." – **Janice Maeditere**

"Seeing is believing but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see" -**The Conductor, The Polar Express**

"Christmas may be a day of feasting, or of prayer, but always it will be a day of remembrance—a day in which we think of everything we have ever loved." — **Augusta E. Randel**

"The true Christmas spirit is putting others' happiness before our own, and finding you've never known such happiness." — **Toni Sorenson**

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If He gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it." — **Pope Francis**



December 2021

Athletics

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: JAXSON PROVOST

This month's athlete spotlight is junior basketball star, Jaxson Provost. So far, our varsity basketball team is off to a strong 4-1 start (as of December 9th, 2021), with Provost leading the team at point guard. This season will be a promising one for both Provost and the team.

Jaxson says he has played basketball "for as long as I can remember" and says he has loved the game since he started at such a young age. He grew up and is still a multi-sport athlete, playing football, baseball, and basketball, and excelling in all three. Jaxson has grown as a player and a person since freshman year, contributing some of his successes to Bishop Mac alumni Andrew Arseneau and Owen Jackson. He states that playing under the two helped him to learn the game and grow in confidence as a player and a leader. Along with last month's spotlight, Colton Provost, Jaxson says that being a part of the Bishop McNamara team is like being a part of a family. He says, "I enjoy being a part of this team because of how close we are, and that we are all family for life". This goes to show how close knit the team is, and how family based our McNamara teams are.

Looking forward, Jaxson plans for a very successful basketball season as point guard, not only this year but next. He plans to continue his basketball career in college but is undecided as to where he plans to attend. Best of luck to Jaxson and the basketball team this year!



Written By: Ava Brosseau

BOYS BOWLING SEASON

On Wednesday December 8th, the boys bowling team had a match against IC prep. The bowlers who participated in the match were Alex Orozco, Everett Finnegan, Nickolas Acevedo, Carter Levesque, and me. The highest scorer was Carter.

The next day, December 8th, both boys and girls bowling were in matches against St. Edward's. For the boys, the bowlers were the same people as the previous day with the addition of Max Lay and Grant Naese. The top scorer was, again, Carter Levesque.

On Saturday, the boys had a tournament in Orland. The bowlers representing our school were Everett and Walter Krause. Everett was the highest scorer at the tournament. The team bowled against Andrew high school, Lincoln Way East, Lemont, and St. Edwards. Both bowlers exceeded their previous high scores.



Written By: Walter Krause

GIRLS BOWLING SEASON

Bishop McNamara's girls bowling team's season has started. They had their first match against Lockport at Strike and Spare. While it was a lively game, they met their defeat to Lockport.



The girls had their second match on December 9th against St. Edwards at Brookmont Bowling Center. It was a close match with Bishop Mac winning the first game and St. Edwards winning the second and third. The top female bowlers were Noelle Yartz, Tori Torres, and Karla Heavener.

The girls next matches are December 15th at Peotone Bowling Center and a rematch against St. Edwards on January 3rd at Elgin Lanes.



Written By: Hailey Neill



December 2021 Athletics

POMS

The bishop McNamara Poms team wins again! Placing first in the IDTA single A hip hop division with a score of 81 qualifying for state and scoring a 78.3 in jazz only 1.7 points away from qualifying for state! congratulations to all the girls and their hard work! After a rough start to the season the seniors could not be more proud of how far they have come. Captain Oriana Gonzalez-Guzman saying, "The season started off rough with no coach, but everything came together on the competition floor in Dunlap and we're not stopping till we obtain our state title for the 2022 season", captain Kedzie Yeates saying "we're so excited to see what the rest of the season has in store for us" as well as senior Jazmine Beck saying "Thank you for all the support! This is just the beginning; I can't wait for more to come!" Don't forget to follow the Mac Poms Facebook and Instagram page @bishopmacpoms.

Written By: Lucy Mast

STATE FARM TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

After an abnormal year for athletics in the 2020-21 school year, things are starting to return to normal. One of the sports that felt a heavy impact was girls' basketball.

The season didn't start until early February and lasted a little over a month, as opposed to the standard November to March season. This led to the omission of many tournaments, including the State Farm Holiday Classic in Bloomington, IL. However, the tournament is back this season.

The Bishop McNamara girls' basketball team first competed in the State Farm Holiday Classic in 2005 and has played in every tournament through 2019. Although the Irish have never won the whole tournament, they won second place in 2013. They have also won third place a total of 5 times, most recently in 2018.

I spoke with Coach Crossley about their season so far ahead of the Classic. "Our season is going okay," Crossley said. "We are currently 3-5 and have shown some potential to be a solid ballclub. We had a huge win at the Cissna Park Christmas tournament against the host, Cissna Park, to open our season. Last week we opened up conference play against Westmont and found a way to win on the road."

He also noted the improvements that needed to be made. "We need to improve our ability to score in transition and make some easy baskets and continue to share the basketball. We also must limit our turnovers and costly mistakes in handling the basketball. Defensively we must play with more energy, enthusiasm, and tenacity."

I additionally spoke with Senior Mallory O'Connor. "The season is moving quickly so far, but we are concentrating mostly on the little things and lifting each other up." As far as improvements go, O'Connor said, "We need to improve on slowing the game down to our tempo and playing the basketball game at our speed with confidence."



Written By: Sarah Berg

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

As the college football season is wrapping up, now is the perfect time to take a deeper look at the season. It was a season filled with many firsts, which always make a sport better. With Michigan finishing the season as the number two team, it's the first time in college football history that a team unranked in the preseason poll finished in the top four and qualified for the playoffs. It was also the first time the Michigan Wolverines beat their rivals, the Ohio State Buckeyes, since 2011. Continuing the trend of firsts in college football, we have the Cincinnati Bearcats. Cincinnati becomes the first non-power five conference team to qualify for the College Football Playoffs.



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Speaking of playoffs, we are now left with four teams left partaking in the playoffs. These teams include Alabama, Michigan, Georgia, and Cincinnati. In the first matchup, we see Alabama and Cincinnati where I think Alabama will take care of business handedly. Our next matchup will be much more exciting, where we see two stout defenses match up. I think it will be a very close game, but Michigan should pull away with this one in the end if they can keep their hot streak going. If these predictions are correct, this brings us to our #1 and #2 matchup in the National Championship. Stellar offense versus a stellar defense. This matchup is very similar to what we saw in Michigan's matchup with Ohio State, where they pulled out a 42-27 win. Michigan has dealt with star-studded offenses all season and I don't see any reason they can't handle Alabama. I think that Michigan continues the hot-streak through the end of the season and roles through the playoffs, resulting in a national title for the Wolverines.



Written By: Carter Levesque

BAND CONCERT

On December 6, the band had a concert in the gym.

The concert started with the Christmas songs Greensleeves (what child is this), and Carol of the bells. They proceeded to play a piece called Roller coaster. The music is much like a roller coaster. It starts slow like the rising of the first hill. Then, it speeds up and begins to sound ominous. The ending sounds triumphant like the feeling of stepping off a roller coaster. The band ended the concert with a four-part song called Bugs. The first movement is called fireflies. It is an orderly sounding bit of music. The second, called daddy long legs, is a bit less organized. The third movement was called butterflies. Much like the insect it was named for, it was a graceful sounding piece. The finale, called march of the ants, was even more geometric sounding than the first movement.



Written By: Walter Krause



Written By: Sydney Burnett

LOCAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Driving around to look at Christmas lights is a favorite holiday tradition.

It is the perfect time to listen to Christmas music, drink some hot cocoa, and take in the world around you. People of all ages can find joy in the decorated houses on the road. While there aren't any dedicated Christmas light exhibits in the area, there are some amazing neighborhoods that go crazy with lights.

My absolute favorite place to look at Christmas lights is the Riverview neighborhood in Kankakee. These streets include Cobb Boulevard, Chicago Ave, Wildwood Ave, and the surrounding areas. The residents of these historic houses go all out when decorating their houses individually. As if that wasn't enough, the neighborhood works together to create something special. Stands of lights hang from almost everywhere, whether it's from the roof of a house or even a tree.

Other neighborhoods that go above and beyond with their lights include Eagle Creek in Bourbonnais, Briarcliff in Bourbonnais, and various side streets in Bradley. Eagle Creek Streets include ones such as Revere St. and Peony Ln. Briarcliff includes streets such as Jeremy Dr. and Barrington Ln. Some of the side streets in Bradley include Grove St. and Forest Ave.



Written By: Sarah Berg

December 2021 Reviews

TOP TEN CHRISTMAS MOVIES OF ALL TIME

It's that wonderful time of year again. Christmas is filled with so many fun and festive activities. Baking, setting up the Christmas decorations, caroling, and lastly watching Christmas movies with friends or family. Today I will be sharing with you the top 10 Christmas movies of all time.

Now these aren't my personal picks however it is an honorable list. I did a poll and let people vote on their favorite Christmas movies and here's the top 10 I've compiled from the responses:

1. Elf
2. Home Alone
3. Christmas Vacation
4. How the Grinch Stole Christmas
5. Polar Express
6. White Christmas
7. Nightmare before Christmas
8. A Christmas Story
9. Christmas Chronicles
10. A White Christmas



Written By: Alicia Wood



Written By: Nikolas Acevedo



Written By: Mason McCue

IS DIE HARD A CHRISTMAS MOVIE?

Is Die Hard a Christmas movie? For years people have debated if this blockbuster film is considered to be a Christmas film. The film takes place in California during the Christmas season. The movie does not stick to the "traditional Christmas movie standards" many people consider to be one of the best Christmas movies of all time. The movie starts out looking like it could be a normal Christmas movie but quickly takes a turn when Nakatomi Plaza (Avenue of the Stars is its real name) is put under lockdown by terrorists that come to acquire \$600 in bonds

from the buildings vault. John McClane is the only other person in the building (besides the terrorists) that isn't being held hostage. Multiple times during the movie McClane makes "Christmas" references starting with writing Ho-Ho-Ho on one of the terrorists' shirts that he tied up. At the end of the movie John is reunited with his wife and then the credits roll out. Though most of the movie goes without signs of Christmas or any type of holiday stuff (besides the occasional decorations), and the movie has a bit of blood and profanity, in my honest opinion (and many others) I do truly think Die Hard is a Christmas movie.



Written By: Riley Piazza

GAME REVIEW: MINECRAFT

The days in middle school when you'd come home and jump on the console, join a friend's world and collect loot to fight the ender dragon. The old days of Minecraft were truly the good days. Even though it's still possible to access these old days through Minecraft Java Edition, most players love to keep up with the latest updates. Recently, the second wave of the Minecraft: Caves and Cliffs update was released to all platforms, and players can't get enough of it! The height limit is now 300, and the depth limit is now -64! With massive caves, underground lava lakes, and even forests generating in heavily mountainous areas, this update has been rated as the best and most popular recorded in Minecraft's 10-year history! As for updates to come, the Wild Update is predicted to be released in late 2022, and the update will be focusing on refining already-existing details in the game, along with adding a few meaningful new ones.



Mojang has announced that a new Mangrove Swamp biome will be one of those meaningful new features, which will be bringing a new type of wood to the many already existing variants. These new swamps are also bringing the new mud block, capable of being crafted into mud bricks and the like. The Deep-Dark biome, originally scheduled to be a part of the Caves and Cliffs update but delayed for further maintenance, has been confirmed to be another one of those meaningful new features, with the new mob "The Warden" being added as well. The smaller features have not been confirmed, however all we currently do know is that it will be making exploring the Overworld a more immersive experience.

As for its popularity here at Bishop McNamara and around the world, Minecraft is far from “all the rage” but it is enjoyed by many students and players alike.



Written By: Justen Egli

KANKAKEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Kankakee Historical Society is one of the oldest societies in Illinois, it was formed by a few local groups in 1906. In 1912 the society started to display artifacts and documents in a small room in the Kankakee High School.

In 1935 the high school went under large renovations forcing the society to move their setup to the courthouse, in 1944 the items were moved back to the high school, and it remained there for 4 years. In 1948 the Kankakee Historical Society found a home when the Historical and Arts Building was constructed on Governor Small Memorial Park. The 21-acre field of land contained one of the oldest homes in Kankakee (belonging to Dr. Abram Small). The plot of land was donated to the society by the small family and funding for the building was provided by state legislature to serve for a memorial. When the open house took place, it was attended by Governor Dwight Green and other political and business figures. The first exhibits were documents, old farm items and miscellaneous tools, household goods and clothing, Native American artifacts, and several statues. The modern-day building has grown to be over 4 times the original size and has become the official Kankakee County Museum.



Written By: Riley Piazza

RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

The word Christmas is also known as and holds the word’s “Christ-mass” in its name. This shows for us as Christians we celebrate Christmas at mass in celebration of Christ’s birth. We celebrate Christmas on December 25th as both a sacred and religious holiday worldwide. Although we celebrate Christmas on the 25th the Bible does not mention the actual birth of Jesus occurring on that day. There is evidence that suggests Jesus may have been born in the Spring, since shepherds would not be herding in the middle of winter. Pope Julius I chose the date of December 25th for Jesus’ birth to be celebrated on. It is believed that the church chose this date because of the traditions of the Saturnalia festival. The Saturnalia festival was originally called the Feast of the Nativity.



Written By: Leah Wilson

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Reviews, History, Art, Food

CHRISTMAS CRAFT



Materials:

- Colored Construction Paper
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Large Hole Puncher
- Glue (Large Elmer's or Hot Glue)

Steps:

1. Cut green paper into 4.5" x 7" dimensions
2. Fold the paper accordion-style and staple at the top
3. Hole punch or cut out colorful circles and a star
4. Glue them to the tree using Elmer’s or a hot glue gun
5. Give as gift, use as a place setting, or put up as a decoration around the house



PEANUT BUTTER BLOSSOMS RECIPE

Ingredients:

- 1 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
 - ½ teaspoon salt
- 4 ounces (1 stick) butter, at room temperature
- ½ cup smooth peanut butter (or other creamy nut butter)
- ½ cup granulated sugar, plus more for rolling
 - ½ cup light brown sugar
 - 1 large egg
- 1 tablespoon milk, half-and-half, oat milk or nut milk

- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Nonstick spray or vegetable oil for cookie sheet (optional)
- 5 dozen (one 11-ounce package) Hershey's Kisses, foil removed

Preparation:

1. Heat oven to 375°F. In a large bowl, beat 1/2 cup granulated sugar, the brown sugar, peanut butter, butter and egg with an electric mixer on medium speed, or mix with a spoon, until well blended. Stir in flour, baking soda and baking powder until dough forms.
2. Shape dough into 1-inch balls; roll in additional granulated sugar. On ungreased cookie sheets, place about 2 inches apart.
3. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes or until the edges are light golden brown. Immediately press 1 Hershey's Kiss in the center of each cookie. Remove from cookie sheets to then cool.

Written By: Michaela Richey

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to all our December Birthdays!

- December 1st - Johannes Peddinghaus
- December 3rd - Ethan Jackson, Ronneigh Turro
- December 5th - Liam McGrath
- December 6th - Veronica Amador
- December 8th - Gianna Brenner, Mackenzie McCammon, Haven Schacht
- December 9th - Sarah Esparza
- December 10th - Chase Provost
- December 11th - Zachary Hansen
- December 14th - Rodolfo Rodriguez
- December 18th - Albert Valladarez, Boston Soucy
- December 19th - Andrea Patino, Everett Finnegan
- December 20th - Max Rohr
- December 22nd - Mallory O'Connor
- December 23rd - Peyton Lambert, Natalie Prairie, Leonardo Castro
- December 27th - Wendy Zarate
- December 28th - Kristian Autman, Madilyn Menard
- December 29th - Connor Silcox, Walter Krause

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Food, Birthdays



Merry Christmas to all!