

The Dragon's Post

Our Hamden Middle School
Student Newspaper



ISSUE 2 | Nov/Dec 2022

Thanksgiving/Winter Issue

HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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View this Issue (& More!) ... Online!

The Dragon's Post is available to our readers online.

Just scan the QR code (left) to access our online newspaper.

A HUGE shout out to our web designers: Riona Pais, Evana Pais & Chloe Butts

The Review Crew: Recipes We Are Thankful For

The Review Crew: Chloe Butts,

Evana Pais & Riona Pais

Snack - Evana



Don't you hate it when it's a big hassle and takes SO much time just to make a great snack? Well, this recipe is super easy and scrumptious that will solve both of those problems!

Recipe Name: Pumpkin Snack Mix

Website Name: [Taste of Home](#)

An easy snack, and so good that "a bowl of it never lasts long." If you seem interested in this delicious snack, find the recipe [here](#).

CAUTION: This recipe does include heat, so be careful when making it. Adult supervision is optional.

Meal - Riona

We all know that the basic Thanksgiving meal is probably turkey or mashed potatoes, but here's one non-traditional Thanksgiving meal:

Recipe Name: Potato Galette

Website Name: [The Pioneer Woman](#)

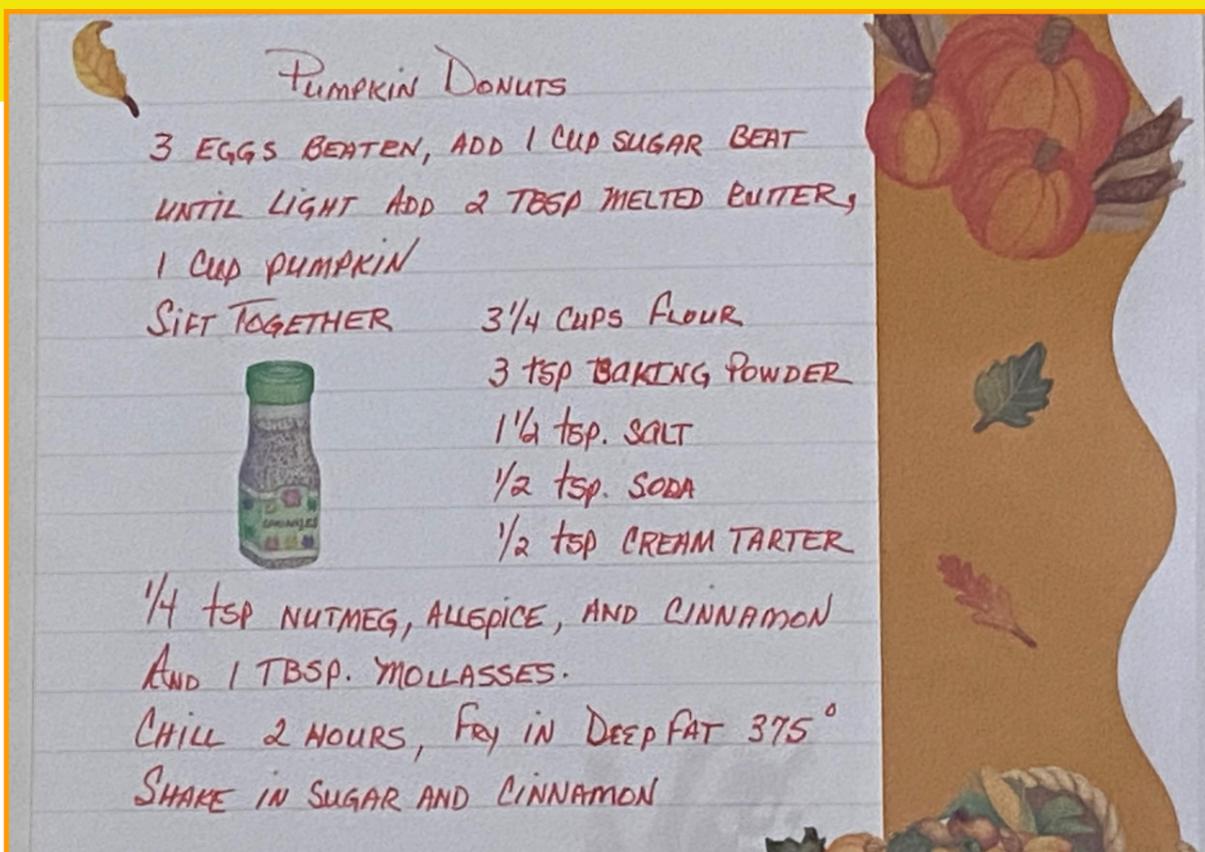
Description: "Your friends and family will *flip* for this potato recipe made in a skillet. It's extra-crispy and delicious no matter what your main course might be."

Interested? Find the recipe [here](#).

CAUTION: This recipe does include heat while frying something in a pan, it also includes flipping the potato galette, please don't burn yourself. Adult supervision is optional



Dessert - Chloe



Don't we all LOVE desserts? Especially the ones that make you feel all warm and fuzzy on the inside.

Well, then this is the perfect recipe for you and your family to make during the fall!

Recipe Name: Pumpkin Doughnuts

Website: *Recipe on page at left*

Serving Size: One Doughnut

CAUTION: You do require frying your doughnuts in hot oil please make it with adult supervision or permission.

The Alibis

Evana Pais interviews The Alibis lead actor, 7th grader Jael Phillips



The Alibis Crew

Synopsis

When a billionaire gets murdered, who better else to call to solve the case than Detective Casey? This play is called *The Alibis* by Jonothan Dorf. This role was filled by a wonderful, smart, and funny female: Jael Phillips, and she definitely deserved it!

The Interview

Q: What was it like playing Detective Casey?

A: “When I first auditioned for the play, my mom told me to do it because I have a background in theater (I was enrolled in the Shubert Theater Camp). I [decided to] audition for Detective Casey, and it was nerve-racking when I got the role, because I [typically] get the side characters or a background character. When you get the main character of a really big play, it's awesome because it's an honestly amazing job, and you get to have so many new experiences. The director Jen has done an amazing job directing everybody and I'm glad to have had some new experiences and to have met new people.”

Q: Who inspired you to try out for the play?

A: “Some people who inspire me are my mom and my dad. My dad is on the board at the Shubert Theater and we just got invited to be a part of the theater. But my mom is the one who pushes me and gives me that drive to [go for it]. So props to her because she's amazing.”

Q: How did you feel on the night of the play?

A: “The night of the play I saw people piling up in the auditorium and everyone knew each other; it was nerve-wracking to know that everyone there was going to see me perform. Spotlights were on me and there was a lot of drama in the back of the curtains. It was fun performing with friends and I made memories that will last till the end of the year.”

Q: What were your favorite phrases/lines you had to say?

A: “Personally, my favorite phrases were, ‘Well let's hope you have a simple, simple answer as to where you were the day of the murder’ and ‘Well here's your cue to sit down.’ I loved those two lines, mostly because— not spoiling it—I got to yell them both.”

Q: Did you make any new friends because of the play?

A: “I made lots of new friends. The people backstage are amazing people, who have amazing personalities, and they honestly put a smile on my face [especially] the day of the play. This was my first ever play with people I know, and it was honestly so fun. Kylie [8th grade] was amazing and very supportive. Owen [8th grade] was amazing at being Warwick the Butler. I'm glad to have been with those two and plenty of other [actors] during the show.”

Q: Has the play changed you in any way? If so, how?

A: “The show changed me in so many ways, especially when it came down to me actually putting myself out there. When you're [performing for] a bunch of people that you don't know, you don't understand why these people are coming to see you. [I had to] really put myself out there. I'm glad that people came to see [the play]!”

The Alibis:

The Inside Scoop

Staff Writer
Hannah
Barrett shares
her HMS
theater
experience

The play *The Alibis* was truly an exceptional experience for me. The whole cast was extremely hilarious and we were all very close. (Especially the two wonderful people— Franc and Sue— that I was in a scene entitled “Case of Fish” with. They were the best scene mates that I could ever ask for!) In the play, I was cast as the Pirate Lu and the Nurse. I basically just fell on the ground and that was it. You may think that falling on the ground would be easy for just about anyone, but— if I’m being honest— it’s not. I found out there were 10 possible “falls” that I could do, and I practiced every single one until I found the right one for me (and the funniest). The preparation for the play was very stressful and the week before the show was the hardest because we had to add in lights and mics, along with costumes and sound effects. It was just all over the place! But since we kept on running and running the show. It became easy for us since we all knew our parts really well! Long story short we all had a great time preparing for the show and that brought the whole cast together and made most of us very close.

Fun Stuff

Compiled by Staff Writer

Desmond Bohan

Riddles, A Word Search & More!

Winter Word Search

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

- CHRISTMAS
- THANKSGIVING
- KWANZAA
- HANUKKAH
- THREE KINGS DAY
- NEW YEARS
- DIWALI
- CELEBRATION
- FOOD
- FAMILY
- GIFTS
- VACATION
- SNOW
- WINTER
- AUTUMN

Fun Stuff

Riddles, A Word Search & More!

Compiled by Staff Writer

Desmond Bohan

Riddles

Riddle: I can drift, lift, swirl, and fall, but only in the winter or not at all. I can get big, but I'm usually small. I can appear when the weather is either wild or tame. I have a million brothers and sisters, but we never look the same. What am I?

Answer: A Snowflake

Riddle: What do December, January & February have in common?

Answer: The Letter "R"

Riddle: What can be a cap, a bed, a bank and a bird at the same time?

Answer: The Snow



Now that's what we call a tree! Staff writer **Chloe Butts** shares her "Book Tree" full of some of her favorite titles!

Season of Giving

Staff Writer **Evana Pais** reports on how some Grade 7 Teams are fundraising & (donating) this holiday season

(& Fundraising!)

Team Ugolik, Gr. 7, House 2



On December 11, Team Ugolik (Grade 7, House 2) went to Target to purchase toys for the HMS National Junior Honor Society's Toys for Tots fundraiser!! As a Team, they raised around \$1,000 and spent the money filling 4 carts with toys! This year, many kids will have Christmas gifts thanks to House 2!! (See more images on our Dragon's Post website!)

When asked what/who inspired House 2 Team Leader Mr. Ugolik to participate in the toy drive, he said:

"I didn't have many toys growing up as a kid, which made me want to help other kids."

Season of Giving (& Fundraising!)

Team Coggins, Gr. 7, House 3



On December 10th, Team Coggins held a fundraiser at Barnes & Noble to raise money for future team activities. They greeted visitors at the door & gave them a flier so they could donate a percentage of their purchase to Team Coggins. Team members also had a gift-wrapping station where they wrapped customers' gifts for a donation. Plus, they even had a special "HMS Dragon" Drink at Starbucks!

The fundraiser was a **huge success** and raised over \$1,000 for team events and trips.

Way to go Team Coggins!!



Snowed In?

The Review Crew: Chloe Butts,

Evana Pais & Riona Pais

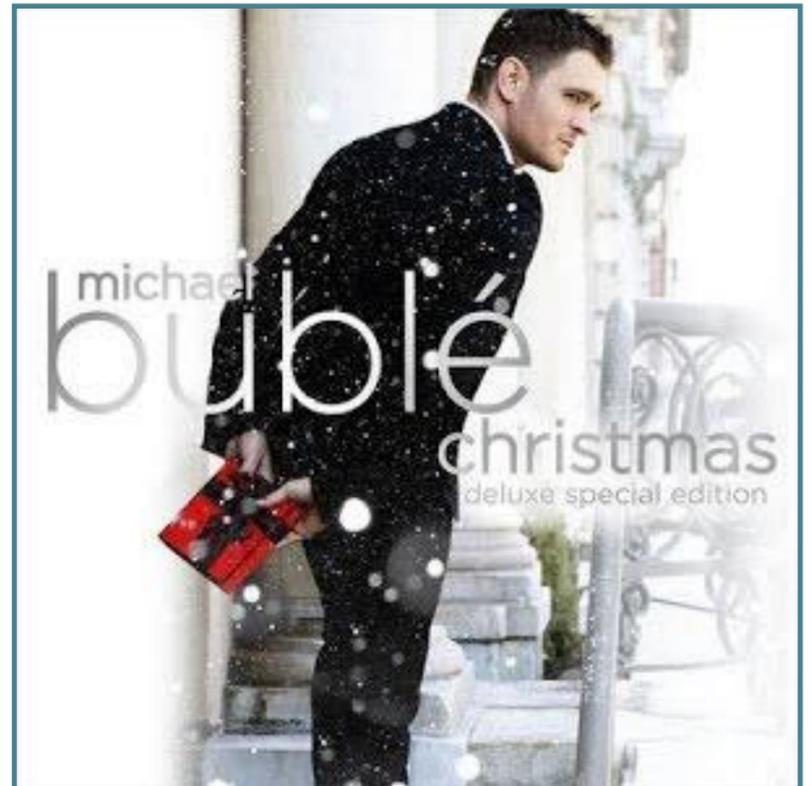
Suggestions for a Snowy Day

What to Listen To...

By: Riona Pais

In winter– when there's nothing to do– it's nice to listen to a song.

And awesome go-to songs are Christmas carols. But, I know, I know, not everyone celebrates Christmas, so here's a song for people who don't celebrate Christmas who want to get into the winter spirit!



Song Title: "Winter Wonderland"

Covered By: Originally sung by Felix Bernard, covered by Michael Bublé

The song was originally written as a poem by Richard Smith. According to familytree.com, "Richard Smith's sister, Marjorie W. Smith, claimed her brother was inspired by the beauty of the freshly fallen snow in the park when he wrote the 'Winter Wonderland' poem."

Later Richard Smith decided to show his poem to his friend Felix Bernard, who was so touched by the poem, that he decided to start composing the song. Later on, Richard Smith died in 1935. Felix Bernard later released the song in the same year.

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