The Bulldog Times



December 2023 - The Voice of our School Community - Issue 3

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Å Christmas memes⊖

By Oindree Bandyopadhyay, Ishaan Parthasararthy, and Arihan Sonawane









Santa hat in it"



PARENTS BE LIKE YOU LIVING AND THIS **HOUSE IS YOUR GIFT**

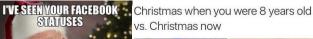


















When someone asks me if I have any Halloween plans





















Confused, Full of cheese, Unsure of the day of week.

World of Music - Winter Special

World of Music

By Victoria Hiegel

Welcome back to World of Music, which is your insight into our wonderful musical scene! I know you are going to be asking, Victoria, why is this one called the Winter Special? Where is the Jazz one? And my answer to that question is, it's called the Winter Special because

it's the Winter Season, and the jazz article is being moved to the next issue of the Bulldog Times (Sorry!).

So, in this article, we are going looking at one of the most notorious songs that gets blasted in department stores starting in November right after Christmas... We're talking about Mariah Carey's song, All I Want for Christmas is You, which I find ironic because she starts off the song by saying "I don't want a lot for Christmas" and then says that she only wants "you."

Putting aside my ranting about song titles, let's look at the song and how it's structured with our good friend Wikipedia! According to the song's article page, it is "an up-tempo song, composed with pop, soul, R&B, gospel, dance-pop and adult contemporary influences and stylings." At the start of the song, it has a tempo rubato, (which is Italian for stolen time by the way) which refers to a tempo slightly speeding up and slowing down at a conductor's discretion. After this opening however, the tempo is shown to be at 150 beats per minute, and there are at least 13 distinct chords at work in the song, according to Adam Ragusea from the online magazine Slate. The vocal range of Mariah Carey in this song is from low G3 all the way to high A5. Several instruments are in the song, including piano, various drums, violin, oboe, and flute, just to name a few of them.

The song received critical acclaim from critics, no matter what newspaper, magazine, or online website they wrote for.

However, in June of 2022, a copyright lawsuit was issued by musician Andy Stone from the band Vince Vance & the Valiants, alleging that she made profit off of their song of the same name, which was released five years prior to Carey's song. However, in November of 2022, he dropped the lawsuit, but refiled it this month.

I hope you enjoyed this article, and until next time, go with your flow and I hope you have a wonderful time celebrating whatever Winter holiday you celebrate, whether it be Christmas, Hanukah, or Festivus (Seinfeld joke, anybody?). Happy Holidays!

Summary: FTC Spencer League Meet 1

(Robotics)

School News

Kirill Mukhin

Note: I have decided to postpone this article and combine it with the one about the second Robotics Competition happening

December 3rd due to a combination of a lack of space in the newspaper and efficiency. See you then!

Upcoming Sports Events By Anzelia Yu

Happy December, Bulldogs! I hope you had a great Thanksgiving and are ready to head into a fun-filled sports season.

Girls Basketball has their first December match on the $5^{\rm th}$, an away game at Issaquah Middle. On the $7^{\rm th}$ is another away game at Pacific Cascade. The last two matches in December are both at home, one against Maywood on the $12^{\rm th}$ and one against Pine Lake on the $14^{\rm th}$.

Wrestling's first match in December will be against Issaquah Middle School at home. On the 7th, we'll be hosting Pacific Cascade, and there'll be an away game at Maywood on the 12th. The final December game will be at Pine Lake

Good luck, and let's finish off 2023 strong!



(Emma Pacifici and Adria Hart)

Two basketball players posing for a picture

Monthly Holiday December edition:

By: Emily Smith + Evelyn Chan



You may know a lot about the holidays in December, but there are probably a few you don't!

Well, if you don't you will find out today. From Bifocals at the Monitor Liberation Day (We have no idea what that means either) to Doctor Who day, are you ready to learn the holidays of December? Let's go!

1. Bifocals at the Monitor Liberation Day	2. Day of the Dead Day	3. World Basking Shark Day	4. Numbat Day	5. Discovery Day (Haiti)	6. Día de la Constitució n	7. Hanukkah Starts
8. Bodhi Day	9. Christmas Card Day	10. Dewey Decimal System Day	11. Anniversar y of the Statute of Westminste r	12. Choral Day	13. World Orphans Day	14. National Pickle Day
15. Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day + Hanukkah Ends	16. Have a Party with Your Bear Day	17. Internation al Students Day	18. Mickey Mouse Day	19. World Toilet Day	20. National Peanut Butter Fudge Day	21. World Television Day
22. Go For a Ride Day	23. Name Your PC Day	24. Native American Heritage Day	25. Christmas +Shopping Reminder Day	26. National Cake Day	27. Turtle Adoption Day	28. Red Planet Day
29. Electronic Greetings Day	30. Doctor Who Day	31 New Years Eve	,			

Captain Stephenson and the Christmas Crime

By: Shruti Sridharan

Mr. Stephenson was in Target one day, doing some Christmas shopping. He picked up a vase for his wife and a few toys for his kids and placed them in the cart. As he wheeled it toward the checkout lane, his phone buzzed in his pocket, and he took it out, scanning the email.

"Dear Issaquah residents, you are invited to the annual Christmas tree ceremony this Thursday, December 24, 2023, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, where the Christmas tree will be decorated and lit. Please remember to bring ornaments and decorations. Happy holidays in advance! Best, Jennifer Bloomberg," Mr. Stephenson read. "Wow, a Christmas ceremony! I better get some ornaments then."

Mr. Stephenson turned his cart around and headed for the ornament section. He piled up on red and green bulbs and sparkly candy canes, reindeer and Santas. With his shopping cart filled to the brim, he headed for the checkout lane once more. He handed the ornaments to the lady at the checkout lane, who gave him a strange look at the sight of the massive pile of ornaments in his cart.

"What?" Mr. Stephenson said, picking up a Hawaii Santa ornament and showing his smiling face playing the ukelele and dancing in his tropical shorts to the lady. "This is an essential item!"

The days passed by slowly, and while Mr. Stephenson's kids were counting down the days until Christmas, Mr. Stephenson was ticking the days until the ceremony.

But soon, it was December 24th. And at 6:45 pm, Mr. Stephenson and his family were on the road, zooming on the highway to Issaquah Commons. By the time they reached there, it was 7:03 and the ceremony had already begun. They hurried to the massive crowd gathering around an even more massive Christmas tree.

".... this ceremony has been a part of Issaquah for many years. I just love this time of year – its so merry and bright...and you get some pretty good shopping deals just before that!" Jennifer Bloomberg chuckles as she stands on the stage in front of the Christmas tree. "And now... what you've all been waiting for...the Christmas tree unveiling! So grab your ornaments and tinsel, for let there be *light*!" she says, grabbing the cover of the tree and giving it a yank.

The crowd gasps.

There, instead of a Christmas tree, was a big cardboard sign that said, "Losers!" in shouty caps.

Jennifer Bloomberg eyes the crowd nervously. "Not to worry! I'm sure it'll turn up in a few minutes!"

But the Christmas tree didn't turn up.

By now, Jennifer had kept the crowd waiting for 15 minutes, so she says, "Well, I'm sorry to say everyone, I don't think we'll be having a ceremony this year," she sighs sadly.

The crowd groans in frustration and begins to shuffle away. Mr. Stephenson was about to leave too, but then he spots a figure in an alley in the corner, holding something over their back. He frowns.

He throws the keys to his wife, saying, "Go ahead and take the kids home. I'll be there in an hour or so."

His wife leaves, and he ducks behind the bushes.

A flash of light, and there was CAPTAIN STEPHENSON!

Captain Stephenson sneaks over to the figure, tiptoeing past the stores and crouching behind them.

When Captain Stephenson gets a good look at the figure, he gasps.

"Jennifer Bloomberg?" he whispers.

Jennifer was talking on the phone, saying, "This town is so stupid. Everyone will fall for anything! I've always hated the holiday seasons

TUNE IN TO THE NEXT ISSUE FOR "CAPTAIN STEPHENSON AND THE TIME TURMOIL", AN ISSUE ABOUT CAPTAIN STEPHENSON GETTING CAUGHT IN A TIME LOOP!

FLAME & FROST

BY EMBER (CREDITS TO WARRIORS)

Hello! This is the author speaking! First, I want to give credit to Yara and Kimaya, as they helped with writing the story. The protagonist of the story is Flamepaw. Flamekit as a she-cat with flame-colored fur and a set of brilliant white wings. She also has fire powers. Some of the cats in this story will have elemental powers, wings, pets, or the ability to transform. Also, you can ask me if you want to see the full story of Flame & Frost or Falkor. (P.S, don't have high expectations for anything, I'm not the best at writing) Send me an email; my email is emberdragonwing@gmail.com or linyan30@issaquah.wednet.edu. Right now, this is just a side chapter, but it will have a relationship to later in the story; where FrostClan comes in and helps FlameClan fight the chimera off. This also relates to Falkor; another story I'm working on. You can also send me a request to add a new character through here(click). 99% of the time, I do. You can also submit more than one. For example, Kimaya's cat (Dreampaw) now has her own side chapter. And Storm will come in later through the story. Ok. That's all for now ~ bye!

CHAPTER THREE: CONDOR RISING

I coiled my tail around my paws as I sat vigil alongside Storm and Nightear. "...she will be a warrior that will be missed." murmured Nightear.

Eaglepaw nodded slowly. Her ears and tail drooped, and her eyes were clouded with grief. Snowdust solemnly began to lick the blood from Nightpelt's fur, and Flutteringjay joined her. They lapped at her fur with silence as Flameclan watched. I stepped forward and gently closed Nightpelt's eyes. Eaglepaw slowly curled Nightpelt's tail around her front paws. Nightpelt looked like she was peacefully sleeping.

Flutteringjay opened her jaw and spoke. "Nightpelt was a brave warrior who defended FlameClan until her last breath. She was always strict, but never too harsh." The Clan deputy bowed her head in anguish.

Eaglepaw said farewell next. "Nightpelt. You were the best mother any cat could ever have. I'll never forget you."

More cats came up to say goodbye, until Snowdust leaped onto the HighRock. "Nightpelt was a treasured warrior in FlameClan. She was brave and fought to the very end to protect her Clanmates from a chimera. Her memory will live on in our hearts. May she be happy in StarClan." Then the leader leaped down again and sat in silent vigil next to Nightpelt's body. I padded forward until I was next to Eaglepaw. I put my tail around her back comfortingly. Storm tipped her head and followed my lead; sitting on the other side of me. She opened her mouth to speak, and I shook my head. She paused, then nodded; signaling she understood. I blinked at her thankfully. She smiled back. Rabbitpaw went to sit behind me. I looked at him before looking back at Nightpelt's body. Sorrow suddenly darkened my emotions once more.

Oh, Nightpelt... I hope you'll be at peace in Starclan.

The next morning...

I stretched and yawned. I feel like something big happened... right? Nightpelt. I flicked my tail, poking Eaglepaw in the side, who was thrashing around in her sleep. The apprentice leaped up; eyes wide.

"Nightpelt!" cried Eaglepaw, panicked, until she realized it had just been a dream. "Oh... sorry, Flamepaw."

I blinked worriedly at Eaglepaw. "Are you okay?" I asked. "If you are, I'll go check on Flutteringjay."

Eaglepaw's eyes suddenly filled with understanding. "Sure. Can I come with you?"

I smiled. "Yeah! Why not."

I bounded out into crisp morning air and paused, breathing in. The cheerful chirping of birds drifted to my ears, and the scent of my Clanmates were all around me. Then I trotted quickly toward the Medicine Den. "Hi, mother. Are you okay?" I asked worriedly.

Flutteringjay looked up at me with love in her eyes. "Yes!" she purred. "Everything is okay now that you're here!"

A moon later...

I whipped around and lunged at the escaping pheasant. My claws rake through its tail feathers and slowed it down. Just enough for Leafpaw to leaped down from a tree branch and plunge her teeth into its spine, killing it. We all yowled in victory.

"Yesss!" I yowled, rearing up.

"We caught it!" cried Eaglepaw in excitement.

"Our mentors are going to be sooo happy!" purred Leafpaw.

"Badgers!" a voice suddenly mewed behind us. Every cat besides the leader herself jumped out of their pelts.

"AH!" I yowled, leaping onto the nearest tree branch with a beat of my wings. Eaglepaw leaped after me and Leafpaw darted into the bushes. I peered down at Snowdust, who was laughing.

We glared down at the leader. "Snowdust!" I yelped indignantly.

"You should've seen how fast you three were!"

"That wasn't funny!" complained Eaglepaw. "You scared us out of our pelts!"

"Well, I think you'll be cheered up by what we say next," said Moonsoar, Eaglepaw's new mentor.

"What?!" We all cried at the same time.

"We think that you all are ready for your assessments! They'll happen tomorrow!" purred Shadowfur.

"Really?!" we all asked in unison.

"Yes, really," purred Snowdust.

"Awesome!" I mewed.

"What if we fail?" asked Leafpaw nervously.

"Have more faith in yourself!" said Eaglepaw, poking her sister in the side.

"Okay..."

I paused, pricking my ears. "Um, I think I hear something. Be right back!"

I tracked the tiny rustling out of camp, straining to hear it. Finally, I reached a large rocky ledge near the camp entrance. The noise was louder now. Unfurling my wings, I flapped unsteadily to the ledge. My eyes widened. In the nest was a chick, about the size of my head. en it saw me, it gave a half-chirp, half-screech. The chick had fluffy down all over it, with two big black eyes staring mournfully up at

me. Its beak was pale and fading to black at the hooked tip. I instantly fell in love with it. It squawked pitifully.

"H-hold on, I'll get something for you." I jumped down, lifting my nose to scent for prey. Instantly, the delicious smell of mouse drifted to my nostrils. Tracking it until I saw a small form in the grass, I fell into the hunting crouch. It felt familiar to me now, as if I'd known it all my life. I crept up on the mouse, one paw at a time. Then, tensing my muscles, I pounced.

I put the dead mouse in front of the squawking chick. It paused, then its beak dove into the mouse, ripping flesh and gulping down chunks. Its eyes seemed to gleam gleefully as the mouse disappeared in seconds.

"Quark!" demanded the chick, asking for more.

"Really? You want *more*?" I asked crossly. "You *do* know that you just ate something half the size of your body?"

"QUARK," said the chick.

"Fine. But don't blame me if you get a bellyache!" I stared at the chick. It stared happily back.

"Cak, quark!" chirped the chick. I sighed and flapped to the skies, soaring over the trees. I quickly smelled squirrel and dipped my wings until I could reach out a paw and touch the treetop leaves. My eyes spotted the squirrel almost instantly. I gained height again, careful to keep the prey in sight. Then, when I saw an opening big enough for me to go through, I dove. Folding my wings close to my body, I zipped down. By the time the squirrel noticed me, it was too late. With a swipe of my claws, I sent it crashing to the ground. As it lay there, I landed on top of it and cracked its spine, making sure it was dead. Then I glided back to the chick and dropped the squirrel in front of it. It gulped it down as well, though, this time, it was a bit slower. Then it let out a contented chirp and I lowered my jaws and tried to put it on my back. I succeeded, and the chick nestled into my neck fur before tucking its beak into its down and fell asleep.

"Uh. That's... a nice bird you have? What are you going to do with it though?" Eaglepaw eyed the bird with an extremely interested expression, as did the other apprentices.

"What I want to know," mewed Skypaw, "Is how you snuck it in here!"

"Yeah!" agreed Sparrowpaw.

"Well, I – ahem – just had to pretend it was fresh-kill. Sharpclaw didn't even spare a second glance! But you know what's the weird thing?" I grinned.

"WHAT?!" asked everyone at the same time.

"I think Sharpclaw is going to have... kits!"

"Woah... who do you think her mate is?" asked Finchpaw curiously.

"Yeah, the Clan already has so many kits!" agreed Cloudpaw.

"Not that it's a bad thing!" mewed Treepaw, with a hint of pride in his voice.

"I think its Beeear! After all, those two chat so much together," commented Rabbitpaw.

"Agreed," I mewed, flicking my tail.

Rabbitpaw blinked at me. Was it just me, or had my comment meant more to him than I'd expected? That was when the baby bird broke into the conversation with a cheery; "QUARK!"

Everybody turned and stared at the bird before breaking into laughter.

"...Quark! Quark!" laughed Lightningpaw. "Who knew birds could produce such a sound! Quark!"

"Cark?" asked the bird, thoroughly confused now.

"Well, I'm sure I'm happy to have been named after a cousin of this bird," mewed Eaglepaw with laughter glinting in her eyes.

That's how the sunrises flew past. I was able to keep my bird secret for the whole while. Then, something happened.

"Mmmf..." I groaned, trying to bat away the paw that was poking me in the side.

"Flamepaaaaaw! Wake up, we need to hide the bird, before a mentor comes in!" Eaglepaw's voice finally got my attention.

"Wha - oh! Right!" I curved my head to see that the chick snuggled in the top right corner of the den. But; it really wasn't a chick anymore. It had grown much larger, at least half the size of me now. Me and the other apprentices had all taken a liking to the bird though. It had turned out to be almost completely black, besides its head, which was bald. Everyone didn't mind though. Its wings were longer than the length of its entire body, and its talons were sharper and bigger. Its tail wasn't that long though. Its 'quarking' had turned into 'carawking'. We suspected that was because it was getting older; so its voice would change. And, obviously, it still loved me the most. It shuffled its wings and craned its head to look down at the commotion.

"Come down!" I called to it.

"Carawk!" it chirped happily, before opening its wings and gliding down.

It landed on the ground next to me, carawking happily.

"Okay, so where do we hide it this time. I think its getting too small for the -" Shinepaw clamped her mouth closed as Snowdust poked her head in.

"Okay, I know I'm early but... WHAT IS GOING ON IN HERE."

PARROTS (Parodies)

Creative Writing 🗟



By Ember, Kimaya

Chapter THREE: Cody

I didn't respond and glided ahead, clutching the precious sticks in my talons. One slip and we'd be ruined.

"Cody, the cats are almost on you!" Ruby screeched, zipping ahead of me.

I chanced a look back to see Ruby had been right. Ruby had flown ahead to Sam, Angel and the falcons. I dove down to a gas station. I flew through the window and started squawking loudly. Most people though, just edged away and stared at me. I glared at them, fluffing out my feathers. Suddenly, LightningTail flew into the building as well, screeching loudly. He launched himself at the nearest human, clawing at her. That got everyone out in a hurry. After all, nobody wanted their eyes pecked out. Then I went outside and saw the cars. Most cars had already disappeared; driven away by people. The few remaining were starting up with humans in it. I sighed in relief. Destroying cars was Ruby's kind of thing, not mine. It was time to put my plan into action...

I flew a final round to make sure nobody was inside. Suddenly, a tabby cat leaped at me. One of the ACP cats! I dodged, and the cat's claws ripped open a gas tank. Oil spilled out.

"OMG, GIMME ONE!" yelled Ruby in excitement.

I tossed one in the air and Ruby caught it, a look of pure longing on her face as she glared at the APC cat. Holding the match her claws, she had grabbed a large spoon lying around on the ground in her beak. She scooped up some oil in the spoon and poured it on the tabby's fur. She then scooped up more and poured it over the tabby, who couldn't do anything but try to evade the falling oil. Eventually, the tabby's fur was soaked after Angel joined in, using a large gadget that sucked the oil from the rips into a container until it was full, and then Angel opened the container's bottom to pour all the oil onto the APC cat. Still, not much went on, and the majority was on the cat's tail.

"Stop... that's enough," said Ruby to Angel, anticipation in her voice. Ruby then flapped near the cat, carrying a piece of metal she'd found somewhere in her right talons while her left held the match. Sparks flew off the metal when Ruby scraped the two together. The tabby yowled in fear as many sparks landed on its tail. Its tail burst into flames. Luckily for the cat, there was a pond nearby, and the cat, waving its tail franticly, ran toward the water. Tiny embers sprayed everywhere, sparking up into huge blazes. I watched the

fleeing cat for a few moments longer, then scraped the rest of his matches against the gas tank before zipping away, leaving the matches behind. It was a small spark, but sometimes the smallest sparks were the ones that cause the biggest inferno. As the station burst into flames, I flapped my wings and glided next to Sam.

"I caused a distraction." I offered.

Sam stared at the scarlet and orange glow behind me. "I can see that," she said dryly. "Is there anyone still inside?"

I sighed. "I cleared everyone out, I made sure of that. I just wanted to slow the ACP down."

Sam slowly nodded. "Very well Cody. I suppose you did good."

I smiled at the praise. I felt proud of myself too. Because of my shy and timid nature, I normally didn't get myself involved in anything too physical, staying long ranged. This was an improvement; I could see it. Perhaps, in the future, I'd become the parrot I wanted to be: Somebody who wasn't afraid to speak out or fight.

Ruby came flying back cackling, "Did you see what me and Angel did to that cat?!"

"We sure taught that tabby a lesson!" agreed Angel.

"Guys, we should leave now, before any ACP or other person spots us hovering around here," said Sam authoritatively.

Everyone seemed to agree with that, and we flew away, as a flock.

When we arrived at the Society of Birds from Every Where's Base (SBFE), there was an entire welcome back party for us. Praises like: "Welcome back, how'd you do?" and "I heard about the gas station! You did good!" Turned out most birds had heard about our... distraction, as everyone called it. Everyone else seemed to be so happy, yet I felt cornered. There were too many birds here.

"Be right back," I whispered to Ruby, who was beside me.

She glanced at me before saying distractedly, "Sure."

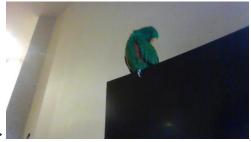
I turned and flew away.

Author's Note: KIDS, DON'T SET ANYTHING ON FIRE! THE EVENTS IN THIS STORY ARE PURELY FICTIONAL! NO GAS STATIONS OR CATS (OR PARROTS) WERE HARMED IN THE MAKING OF THIS STORY!

The Life of Cody and Ruby (Pt. 1)

Brought to you by one of the authors of Parrot (Parodies): Ember

Hello, readers! First, if you've reached this, congratulations! It means that you've finished Parrot (Parodies)! Here is a sneak peek into the life of Cody and Ruby, where our fictional characters Cody and Ruby were inspired! Everything here is real! First, here are a few pics of Cody and Ruby, followed by exciting news!



Cody preening his feathers! ->

Okay. Now, here comes the super epic stuff. Ruby is now a mother of two eggs! After a lot of pained squawking, she laid two pure white eggs about half the size of a chicken egg. She was very proud, but it is still too soon to see if these eggs are fertile or not. I'm sure some of you are going (like a certain friend of mine did) "WHAT?! What do you mean? Fertile? Not all eggs can hatch if they are well-cared for and nothing bad happens to them?!" Turns out, yes! There is a special way to find out we humans have created, but I'll tell you more about that in the next issue. But still, Ruby is now a mom!!! Everybody cheer!



Do you know the 5 types of snow? Or where the word "winter" came from? Or even how many tons of salt are used on US roads each winter? Well, you will find out today!

- 1. Sunsets and sunrises are brighter and more colorful in winter.
- 2. Every snowflake is unique. Temperature, moisture in the air, speed, and movements while falling all affect the shape of a snowflake.
- 3. The first candy canes were made without stripes.
- 4. The north pole is warmer than the south pole.
- 5. Reindeer can see in the dark.
- 6. The average amount of money that people will spend during the holiday season this year is 16 hundred dollars.
- 7. The earth is closest to the sun in the winter.
- 8. The Tallest Snowperson Stood Over 122 Feet Tall.

- 9. More than 22 million tons of salt are used on US roads each winter.
- 10. Sometimes snowballs form themselves.
- 11. Snowflakes have 6 sides regardless of the design.
- 12. Dry snow, moist snow, wet snow, very wet snow, and slush or snow are the 5 types of snow.
- 13. Monkeys love snow.
- 14. Too much snow isn't good for you.
- 15. The name "winter" comes from an old Germanic word that means "time of water."

16.



BUILDER'S CLUB

The meeting started with all the members of Builder's Club listening to people introduce themselves. As Vice President Mabel Holta was introducing herself, I started to open my laptop. Mrs. Clemans assigned projects to each person. The goal of the meeting was to create posters advertising the club itself. I happily joined the crew using Canva to create posters. It was low key kind of day. At the end of the class everyone hung up handmade posters. You'll probably have seen them. I think the phrase treasurer Ashira says best sums it up, "It's a community service club that does much more than that community service." So that's a small little summary of the Builders Club. Thanks for reading, Em Jackson.

Surveys

By: Emily Smith, Evelyn Chan + Kimaya Mahajan (not featured in this month's article)

Last Month's Results:

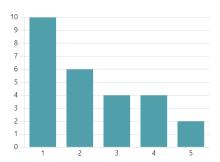
Best Thanksgiving Food:



4. Cranberry sauce

More Details 👸 Insights

2.31 Average Rating

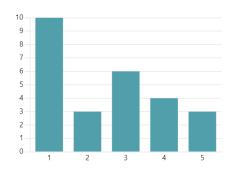


5. Stuffing

More Details

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2.50 Average Rating

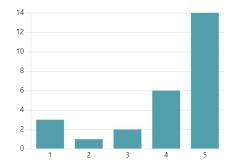


6. Mashed Potatoes

More Details

∷Ö: Insights

4.04 Average Rating

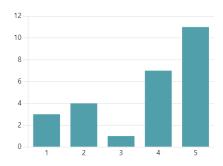


7. Rolls/Biscuits

More Details

্ট্ৰ: Insights

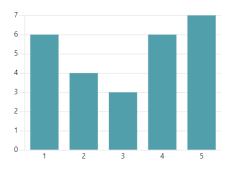
3.73 Average Rating



8. Green Beans

More Details ∵Ö Insights

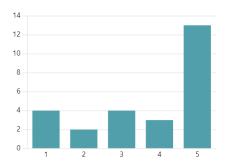
3.15 Average Rating



9. Pie

More Details ♡ Insights

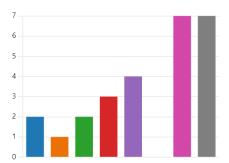
3.73 Average Rating



11. What's best?

More Details

Turkey
2
Cranberry Sauce
1
Stuffing
2
Mashed Potatoes
3
Rolls/Biscuits
4
Green Beans
0
Pie
7
Other



Also, there was a student who wanted me to share their "other" for the last question very badly, so here it is (Also sorry these results are taking up a lot of space):

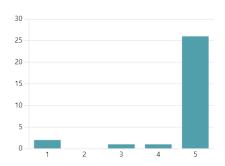
"That deep dish sweet potaters with them marshmellowy stuff on top that only you and your brother like and pie but only the next day for breakfast"

In their very own words!

Holidays:



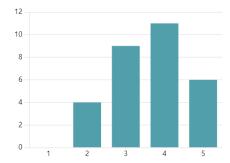
4.63 Average Rating



4. Thanksgiving

More Details ∵Ö: Insights

3.63 Average Rating

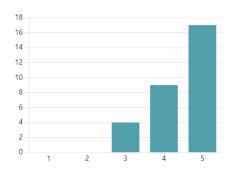


5. Halloween

More Details

্ৰ্ত Insights

4.43 Average Rating

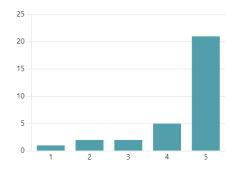


6. Your Birthday

More Details

্ৰে: Insights

4.39 Average Rating

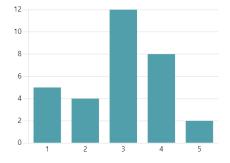


7. Valentine's Day

More Details

∵Ö: Insights

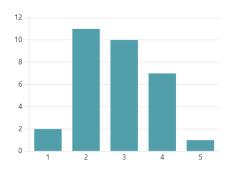
2.94 Average Rating



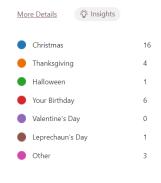
8. Leprechaun's Day

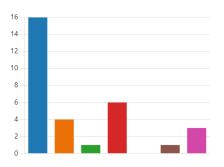
More Details ∵Ö: Insights

2.81 Average Rating



9. What's the BEST one?



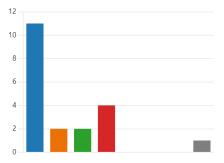


Favorite Game:

3. Favorite Kind of Game

More Details





4. What is your favorite game called? (uno, minecraft, etc.) \star

The dice have the numbers on them: dice A-3, 3, 3, 3, 3 dice B-2, 2, 2, 2, 6, 6 dice C-1, 1, 4, 4, 4, 4. Choose a dice and let your opponent choose 2nd, both of you roll the dice every round, the person with the higher number wins the round, the person who wins the most rounds wins the game. Ties don't count towards wins.

Soccer/Softball

Capture The Flag.

New Forms:

Christmas Gifts (By Rishika, our guest FormMaker):

Christmas Gifts Form (click)

More Christmas Opinions (Idea from Student):

[I will insert link soon]

Favorite Dessert Form (By Evelyn):

Favorite Dessert Form (click)

Unlimited Money Form (By Emily):

Unlimited Money Form (click)

Talk to Emily, Evelyn or Kimaya if you have a new form idea or click below!

New Form Form (click)

The History of Gingerbread!

Foodly History 🎄

Deck the news with boughs of holly, the Christmas season is here! And what food is less Christmas-y than the sweet, icing-decorated gingerbread cookie we all love? But did you know that in Medieval England, "gingerbread" simply meant preserved ginger? Let's dive into the long story of this delicious treat!

Ginger root was first cultivated in ancient China, where it was used as a medicinal ingredient and a way to season food. Chances are, if you eat some kind of Chinese food, you'll find chopped ginger in there. Suffice to say, the Chinese had many uses for ginger.

Ginger was one of the first spices imported to Europe in the spice trade. It was brought to the Middle East and Greece. In Greece, the first recipes of gingerbread appear and was commonly used for ceremonial purposes. It wasn't until the 11th century CE that Crusades soldiers discovered ginger and brought it back to the rest of Europe, though.

As ginger became cheaper, gingerbread treats became available for the masses. The first gingerbread man is credited to... (drumroll, please) QUEEN ELIZABETH I! She baked them to look like herself and visiting dignitaries.

Nowadays, we only eat gingerbread cookies during the Christmas season, but in olden-day Europe, people ate gingerbread cookies year-round. They were made in shapes appropriate to the season, for example, flower-shaped gingerbread cookies in the spring and birds in the fall. Soon enough, gingerbread became synonymous with all things fancy in England. In some of the coastal colonial settlements in America feature carved, white architectural details can be found on many houses. This is sometimes referred to as "gingerbread work".

Now, we can't write an article about gingerbread without writing about gingerbread houses! Gingerbread houses were first made in Germany in the 16th century and were associated with the Christmas tradition. Their popularity rose when Brothers Grimm wrote Hansel and Gretel, in which the characters stumble upon a house made of treats. It is unclear whether this story made gingerbread houses more popular or vice versa.

And now we arrive at today, as always. Gingerbread is eaten usually around Christmas and is still super delicious. Well, that's all for this month's article. See you next month, and

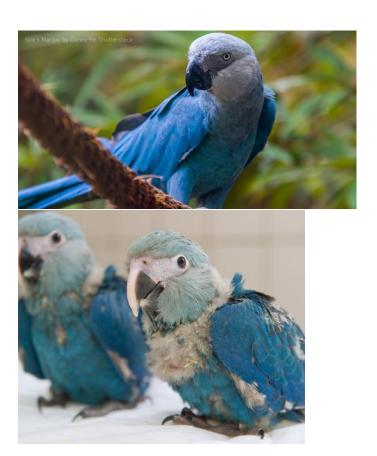
Bon Appetite!

Endangered Animals By Ember

Spix's Macaw

A macaw. When you usually think of a macaw, I'm sure that the first one that comes to your mind is either the scarlet macaw or the blue-gold macaw. Most likely. But have you even *heard* of the Spix's macaw? Well, you have now. The Spix's macaw is a lively, gregarious (gregarious means highly sociable/companiable) parrot. They are also fiercely loyal to their mates and can mimic human speech. They are also very energetic and noisy, with inquisitive and playful personalities. But now, Spix's macaw is among the rarest and most endangered parrots in the world.

Spix's macaw was even once officially declared extinct by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) in 2019. Luckily, two batches of individuals have been reintroduced to the wild somewhere in 2022. As of 2022, there are about 177 Spix's macaws in captivity. This bird is endangered due to deforestation in its limited range and specialized habitat. Since it has a very restricted habitat because it relies on trees for nesting, food, and a place to roost (sleep).



California Condor

Condors might not exactly be everyone's favorite bird. Why would they? They eat rotting meat, they don't look pretty, and they have bald heads; which looks weird. But many condors and endangered, maybe because of this! The California condor's population is slowly decreasing with an estimated population of around 558 right now.

One of the saddest parts of this is that people intentionally poison condors. They do it by spraying or somehow putting poison or some sort of drug into a carcass; or dead body, that condors eat. The poison, once in the bird, kills it. Sometimes, painfully and slowly. Imagine if that condor had a family! Another more outright way humans kill condors is that they hide somewhere near a carcass and wait for the birds to come. Then they shoot them down. For many bird lovers who don't mind condors, this is heartbreaking, and even for people who aren't devoted to birds (though I am a devoted bird lover). California condors are a victim of this, with their low population. The Endangered

Species Act has put some laws, with a penalty of one year in jail and a \$100,000 fine for killing the California condor, which is backed up by the violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which demands somewhere from 6 months – 1 year and up to a \$250,000 fine! But it might not be enough (especially as we humans can be sneaky...). California even offers \$5,000 for any reliable info about the killing of a condor!





National Pastry Day: December 9th

By: Saanvi K

National Pastry Day is a special day in December reserved to celebrate pastries and celebrate pastry chefs. National Pastry Day celebrates the founding of the National Pastry in school in Boston, in 1887. It celebrates the art and profession of making delicious pastries. There are so many delectable pastries and different recipes. National Pastry Day helps celebrate the wonderful traditions in the past, and new innovative techniques in baking pastries. One famous pastry is the classic croissant.

Pastries are also famously known for their flaky and crunchy texture. Pastries are one of the tastiest foods to exist. Pastries are not easy to make and require training and perfectionism. Pastries need correct measurements and ingredients, and of course creativity. Pastries date back to ancient times in Egypt, it is known people in Ancient Egypt made pastries.

- 1) Combine 2 cups all-purpose flour, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 cup sugar in a food processor or mixer fitted with the dough hook.
- 2)Add 8 tablespoons (1 stick) of unsalted butter and pulse until the mixture resembles a coarse meal. With floured hands, add enough additional water (up to 1 cup) to make a sticky dough.
- 3)Squeeze together 2 lemons and 2 tablespoons of sugar; add the juice both to the dough and to a bowl filled with ice water.
- 4) Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead briefly just until it's smooth. Place it in a greased bowl, turning it so that all surfaces are coated.
- 5)Cover with plastic wrap and let rest in a warm place for 30 minutes.
- 6)Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface to 1/8-inch thickness. Using a biscuit cutter or drinking glass, cut out as many cross.

(Recipe and information found from https://dayfinders.com/national-pastry-day/).

https://www.nationaldaystoday.com/national-pastry-day/#google_vignette

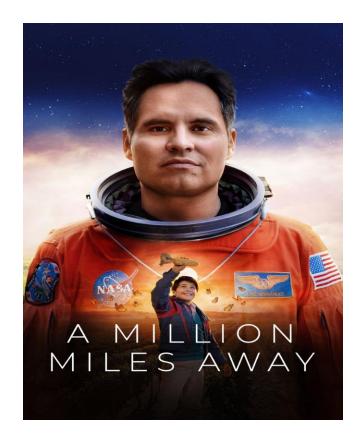


Caption: Delicious and delectable croissants.

Movie Reports

A Million Miles Away

By Aryan Mundru



Genre ---- Historical fiction, Realistic fiction

Runtime ---- 2hr 1 mins – 121 minutes

Age rating ---- PG, thematic elements, and language.

Language ---- English, Spanish

Release Date---- September 15, 2023

How to Watch---- Amazon Prime Video (need a subscription)

Cast

- Michael Peña as José M. Hernández [2]
- Garret Dillahunt as Frederick W. Sturckow^[3]
- Rosa Salazar as Adela Hernández [3]
- Bobby Soto as Beto^[3]
- <u>Julio Cesar Cedillo</u> as Salvador Hernández^[3]
- <u>Verónica Falcón</u> as Julia^[3]
- Sarayu Blue as Kalpana Chawla^[3]
- Eric Johnson as Clint Logan[3]
- Jordan Dean as Weissberg^[3]

- Ashley Ciarra as Marisa^[3]
- Michelle Krusiec as Miss Young[3]
- Carlos S. Sanchez as Julio (Age 11)[3]
- Isaac Arellanes as Julio (Age 16)[3]
- Emma Fassler as Stacey^[3]
- Isabel Aerenlund as Nicole Stott
- Michael Adler as Anderson^[3]

A Million Miles Away is a great heartfelt movie on perseverance and succeeding against all odds. I enjoyed this movie very much and urge you to watch it. This Movie is about a Mexican Farm immigrant who becomes an astronaut. This incredible true story is sure to inspire you as much as it inspired me.

This movie has shown me how grateful we should all be for how blessed we all are to be able to have food to eat and a proper education. Jose never had much growing up. His parents were unable to provide him with fancy science kits or outside education. Instead, he made his dreams come true with hard work, determination, and hunger for success.

I would recommend this movie to people who love true inspirational stories. I guarantee that after watching this movie you will feel ten times more grateful for all the things that you have that Jose could not afford.

You can watch the movie on Amazon Prime Video. You do need a subscription to watch this movie so ask your parents if you have one. The movie is rated PG for some thematic elements and language. Go watch A Million Miles Away. You won't regret it.

Origami USA Recognizes BLMS Student

Written by Yara Rustum

On the Beaver Lake website on October 17th, an amazing piece of news has been posted.

Neel Dalela is an 8th grade student at Beaver Lake Middle School who was recently recognized by Origami USA. Origami USA is an American society devoted to origami. Neel Dalela has begun the Origami club with encouragement from the teacher advisors, Rashi Abajian and Shu-tien Chen.

"Thank you for the encouragement and the opportunity to start the origami club at BLMS. I have been invited by Origami USA to conduct a workshop at Pacific Coast Origami Conference (PCOC 2023)" Dalela writes.

On the Origami USA website, it says that Neel Dalela is teaching a class at Origami USA called "Crease Pattern Workshop."





Eagle Owl' folded by Neel Dalela (left) and an origami artwork by Neel Dalela (right)

Map of the Month
By Evelyn



A few unusual ones to point out:

- Washington: Skittles

- Missouri: Vegan Christmas cookies

- Utah: Jolly ranchers

- Hawaii: Oreo cheesecake

- Iowa: Oreo balls

Happy Holidays!

Salted caramel gingerbread cupcake

By: RISHIKa



INGREDIENTS FOR THE CUPCAKE:

½ cups of milk	- whole milk	s preferred t	to make the l	batter thin and	moist
----------------	--------------	---------------	---------------	-----------------	-------

- □ 1/3 cups canola oil adds richness to the cupcakes and helps keep them soft and moist.
- □ 1/4 cups dark molasses adds the earthy flavor and sweetness that is commonly known in gingerbread.
- □ 1 large egg binds the batter together so the cupcakes aren't too crumbly
- ☐ 1 tsp of vanilla extract binds the batter together so the cupcakes aren't too crumbly
- ☐ ¼ cups of brown sugar adds a bit more sweetness and earthiness to enhance the molasses
- □ 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour- gives the cupcake structure so they aren't too wet
- **2 tsp of baking powder** helps the cupcakes rise so they stay light for a fluffy cupcake.
- ☐ ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon classic gingerbread spices and add a bit of spice to the cupcakes.
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger classic gingerbread spices and add a bit of spice to the cupcakes.

LUM TO MAKE THE CIIDCAKES

- 1. Preheat your oven to 350F and line 12 standard muffin tins with paper liners.
- 2. In a large bowl, whisk together the milk, avocado oil, molasses, eggs, and vanilla extract.
- 3. Add the brown sugar and whisk to combine.
- 4. Next add the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, and ginger. Whisk to combine.
- 5. Divide the batter between the cupcake tins, filling each one with about ¼ cup of batter.
- 6. Bake for 16-18 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.
- 7. Remove the cupcakes to a wire rack and allow them to cool completely before icing.

Salled Caramet Bullercream ingredients:

■ **Softened Butter** - Base of the frosting. Make sure it's fully softened to room temperature, or you'll end up with lumps in your buttercream. I use unsalted butter.

- □ **Powdered Sugar** Gives the frosting structure. Feel free to add a bit more or a bit less to achieve your desired consistency.
- □ Salted Caramel Sauce Salted caramel ice cream topping works, but feel free to use what you have on hand. Keep in mind you may need a little more powdered sugar if your caramel is thin.

HOW TO Make THE BUTTERCREAM.

- 1. Add the softened butter to the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. With the mixer on low speed, slowly add the powdered sugar.
- 2. Once all the powdered sugar is incorporated, add the caramel sauce.
- 3. Turn the mixer to medium-high speed and mix until the buttercream is light and fluffy. This will take about 1 minute.
- 4. Transfer the buttercream to a piping bag fitted with your choice of tip and frost the cupcakes as desired with the frosting, caramel drizzle, and decorations.



This is how buttercream should look

Carnival (Creative Writing-Scary Novel) By: Reva Nair and Sarah Sharma

Chapter 5- Turn Back Menna Patel-

I reached my plane and got to my destination, California. I was a little shaken up about leaving the kids home alone, but I tried to take my mind off them. I was finishing my work and met up with some colleagues. We had parties because I got a promotion. I wish I could go home and meet the kids. I get anxious a lot. Even if I am 1 hour away from them, I get worried.

I wish I could turn back, but I can't, I have important things to attend to. They'll be okay...

Chapter 6- The Grand-New Opening

Mira Patel-

"Woah..." I said in astonishment. The carnival looked so cool.

"Yep." She pulled out her phone from her big pocket. "I pulled up a picture of how it looked before compared to it now." She held her phone in front of my face.

The carnival on the right had broken stalls (for games) and the roller coasters had rust. Some parts of the track were broken and had fallen. Popcorn and other food products were scattered all over the floor, probably the carnival wasn't popular or got abandoned. On the left, the carnival looked exactly like where I stood. Perfect stalls had been placed and the ground wasn't cluttered with stuff. The roller coaster laid out in twists and turns. The place looked so fun!

"There is a huge difference." I said in awe.

We stood for a little while outside the carnival waiting for our friends. One by one, they finally came.

Hailey was the first to arrive. She wore a pink hoodie with matching fluffy sandals. She let down her curly blonde hair which is usually tied back. Markus followed closely behind her (they are siblings).

Molly came with Leah. They both were slapping each other's thighs as they died of laughter. No one wants to know what those two are talking about.

And finally, John came. He had cool shades on his head and a plaid shirt. He strutted towards us, acting like popular kids in the movies which made us all giggle.

We all walked in. A young lady handed us tickets and welcomed us into the amusement park.

There were many stalls filled with games and crowds crowding them. Children laughed and played. Some won games while others made fits.

Molly pointed at the roller coaster named Soul Stealer'. Can we please go on that? I've been waiting to go on a rollercoaster my whole life!"

Leah agreed with her. "Yeah, that seems fun."

I shook my head in agreement. "Let's find some more scary rides first." Halloween was nearing and I just had to get scared. Halloween is the one time of year that I can have fun and get scared. Without it, it feels so boring.

We shuffled through the crowds and turned to an employe. "Can you tell us which sections have the scariest rides or places?" I asked.

"Sure." she replied. "Over there." she pointed to a billboard that had big, bold words that spelt "Nightmare land".

John, coolly waltz right in without hesitation. Markus hung close by Hailey. Molly and Leah held each other's hands. Aryia held her skirt tightly. And me? I walked in without a worry in the world.



CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS &

By: SARAH SHARMA

Have you ever been struggling over what you should get your family and friends for Christmas? Then this article is just for you. Here are a few DIY Christmas gift ideas that will spark your creativity and imagination for even more ideas. And, if you prefer to buy presents rather than making homemade ones, don't worry. This article also has ideas for people that love to shop.

DIY GIFTS:

- Homemade hot chocolate bombs with marshmallows inside
- Cute crochet stuffies and keychains
- A handmade Christmas themed snow globe
- Homemade clear stained-glass cookies with sprinkles inside
- A handmade cross-stitched Christmas wreath

STORE BOUGHT GIFTS:

- A classic gift card
- A scented bath bomb along with a few skincare items
- A resin kit
- A popcorn or cotton candy machine

I hope you have a fun time making or shopping for Christmas gifts- and don't forget, have a wonderful Christmas!

THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS



By Aadya Singhai

Here is a more detailed look at the history of some of the most popular Christmas traditions:

- Decorating Christmas trees: This tradition originated in Northern Europe, where pagan tribes decorated evergreen trees in worship of their gods. The evergreen tree was seen as a symbol of life and hope during the dark winter months. In the 16th century, German Christians began to decorate Christmas trees with candles and ornaments.
- Exchanging gifts: The tradition of exchanging gifts on Christmas dates to the early Church. Christians believed that giving gifts was a way to emulate the Magi, or Wise Men, who brought gifts to Jesus at his birth.
- Feasting with family and friends: In the early Church, Christmas feasts were held to celebrate the birth of Jesus and to give thanks to God for his blessings. Over time, Christmas feasts became more secular in nature, but they are still an important part of the holiday for many people today.

It is a time for family and friends to come together and celebrate the joy of the season. While the holiday has its roots in religious traditions, it has also become a more secular celebration that is enjoyed by people of all faiths.

International Tradition Coverage

By Kimaya Mahajan

Because my page space is EXTREMELY limited, I am unable to include an issue of ITC for December. (pauses to hear everyone's disappointed groans and sighs). I promise that January will bring an extra-interesting article, with pictures, facts, and hopefully an interview or two. Really? A sneak peek? Alright then. For January we'll be focusing on LUNAR NEW YEAR! GUYS. I NEED PEOPLE TO INTERVIEW. CONTACT ME (@mahakim30@issaquah.wednet.edu) to be interviewed!! I am aware that some of you lovely readers may celebrate this holiday in February, but I've got something else planned for that month... that's enough spoilers for now! Quick, I'd better run away before you disappointed, information-hungry fans come for me

Do you have a holiday that you'd like to see featured? Fill out this form! Note: Please don't be for the current month or previous months. It would be kind of odd to write about Kwanzaa or Thanksgiving in January, wouldn't it?

Suggestions

Trapped in a dream

By Amna Ahmed

Chapter 3: Am I... trapped?

"YAWWWN" Sara stretched and lifted herself out of her pastel gray comforter. She slipped her feet in her slippers before something pellicular caught her eye.

She sprinted to the window to see... AI powered flying cars! Buildings blanketed in LEDs! PINK SNOW?! How long was she asleep for?

She immediately knew the answer when she saw a billboard that read "WELCOME TO 3069!"

She ran to the living room to find the kitchen the size of a fast-food restaurant. Again, LEDs lit up the room, and the fridge was a see-through aquarium.

Her stomach roared, so she opened the fridge door. Inside there were weird foods like: crocodile meat, frog legs, cotton candy flavored dirt, stir- fry cockroaches, and soda flavored ice cream.

She lifted her hand to the ice cream, since that was the only edible option.

She helped herself to a few bites before she heard the door open.

"Hello?" Sara meaked.

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MAH HOUSE?!" She heard a senior lady holler. She saw her carrying some sort of shotgun.

"IMMA BOOM YOU WITH MAH FARTINATOR 6000!" She screamed back

A fartinator? Who in the world would buy a fartinator?

She pressed a button that allowed a gas to pass through the room. She quickly applied a gas mask onto her face.

The gas let out the world's most unpleasant aroma, filling the entire kitchen. The smell was so horrible that Sara unfortunately passed out.

"YASS SLAY GORLIE SHE DEAD!!!" The old lady screeched and started jitterbugging.

Sara's eyes opened, but she wasn't in the fart scented kitchen. At that moment she knew, she just knew that... she was trapped

CHAPTER 4 IN NEXT ISSUE

Congrats if you're reading this, you are one of the people who made it to the end!

Thanks for reading the whole thing
Until next time...

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!