

The Dragon's Post

Our Hamden Middle School
Student Newspaper

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Holiday Issue

HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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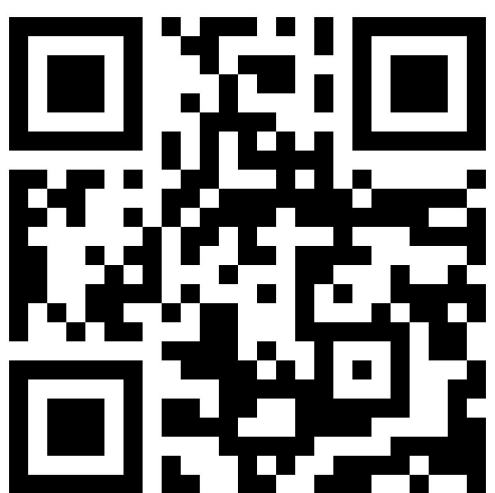
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Just scan the QR code (left) to access our online newspaper.

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

HMS

Reporting By: GIA DAMICO
and GIULIANA ODDO

Team Leaders

We all know that at HMS we have some amazing teachers. But today, we are here to zoom in on just a few members of our awesome staff: our eight Team Leaders.

Read on to unfold some of the inside scoop about the daily lives of our Team Leaders.

We hope that you enjoy it!

Grade 7 Team Leaders

Mr. Ugolik is House 2's Team Leader and is also a social studies teacher who has been teaching for 16 years. He says, "My favorite thing about being a team leader is being creative with planning things for the kids."

Mrs. Coggins is House 3's Team Leader and she is also an English teacher who has been teaching for 21 years. She says, "My favorite

thing about being a team leader is being able to plan great activities and work with great teachers."

Mr. Stanton, House 4's Team Leader is also a math teacher of 19 years. He says that his favorite thing about being a Team Leader "is that everyone has to follow my rules... and the kids of course."

Ms. Holt, House 5's Team Leader, has been teaching for 14 years and teaches Learning Strategies and English. She says that her favorite part of being a team leader is "helping students with their problems."

Grade 8 Team Leaders

Mrs. Domurad, House 1's Team Leader has been teaching English for 15 years. "My favorite thing about being a Team Leader is that I am the person that kids feel that they can come to with good and bad issues," Mrs. Domurad says.

Story continued on next page...

House 2's Team Leader is Mrs. Morello, a Social Studies teacher who has been teaching for 18 years. "My favorite thing about being a team leader is getting to be a part of planning fun events."

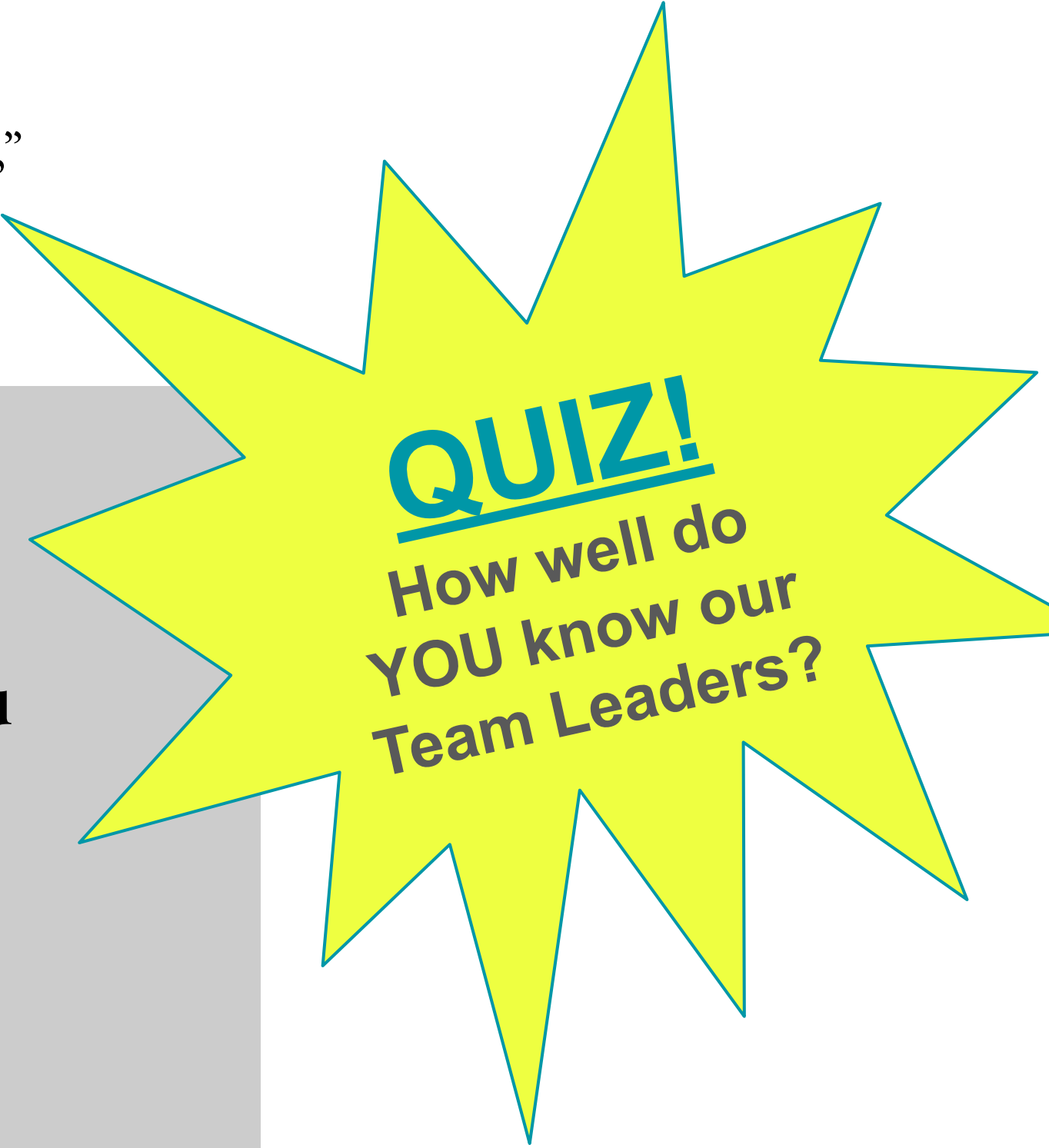
Mrs. DeLucia, House 3's Team Leader, has been teaching science for 14 years. "My favorite thing about being a team leader is that I get to plan events to make my team a family," Mrs. DeLucia says.

House 4's Team Leader is Mr. Rocco, who has been teaching Social Studies for the last 14 years. "My favorite thing about being a team leader is helping shape the direction of my team," Mr. Rocco says.

Click the link on the right for a fun quiz and see how well you know our team leaders.

The World Language Department's Team Leader is Mrs. Sgrigner in House 5. She has been teaching Italian to students for 19 years. She says her favorite part of being a Team Leader is "working with a wonderful, hardworking team." She loves teaching Italian because enjoys "getting my students to appreciate different cultures and getting them to understand the importance of speaking another language."

We are lucky to have all of these amazing teachers!



QUIZ!

How well do
YOU know our
Team Leaders?

Heroes in Disguise

Reporting By: GIA DAMICO and GIULIANA ODDO

On November 3rd, in honor of Veterans Awareness Day, HMS was visited by over 80 Veterans. They shared their stories and artifacts from their experiences while serving our country.

Dragon's Post staff writers **Gia Damico & Giuliana Oddo** interviewed some of these heroes. These are their stories...

Marines

Adele Hodges and **Reggie Jackson** visited HMS. Ms. Hodges served in Desert Storm, Iraq, and Operation Enduring Freedom, serving until 2011. Mr. Jackson served in Vietnam, until 1970.

Both Hodges and Jackson made so many sacrifices for our country. When asked what basic training was like, Hodges said,

“They turned civilians into marines, it was very mental,” When we asked Jackson the same question he replied, “H**L,” Jackson said. Even though they served during different times, they are both heroes in disguise.

Visiting Army Veterans

Ms. Angela, **Bob Fortino**, **Sim Gillman**, **Colonel Ronald Weild**, and former HMS football coach, **Coach Hawk**, are all former or current U.S. Army members.

Colonel Weild and Mr. Fortino both served during the Vietnam War. Mr. Gillman served during the Korean War. Coach Hawk served in Operation Iraq 1, and Operation Enduring Freedom 3. Ms. Angela served in Operation Desert Storm. When asked what basic training was like Ms. Angela said, “It was hard and it was a transition.” Coach Hawk said that basic training “was one of the best times of my life.” When asked what basic training was like Mr. Ronald Weild said, “It was hard and a lot of work.” Mr. Bob Fortino said, “It was a lot of exercise.” And lastly when asked what basic training was like Mr. Sim Gillman said, “I was in the band, so it was different for me.”

CT State Guard

Matthew Jalowiec served in the CT State Guard. Though he has never been in any wars himself, he wishes civilians understood not to forget the trouble that veterans have gone through. When Jalowiec enlisted, he had a pretty good guess of what military life would be like, and he said his training was simple—not complex. Lastly, Jalowiec says he has made lots of memories.

Story continued on next page...

Navy

Dennis Salzer was in the Navy, and he was in the Vietnam War. He wishes civilians would understand and take the time to say thank you to those who serve our country. Salzer enlisted and he imagined military life being hard and a big change. He was correct: his training was difficult, challenging, and a great learning experience. Mr. Salzer also developed a few close relationships and had lots of get-togethers.

Air Force

Raymond Nelson was in the Air Force (and the Fire Department). He worked in the Nuclear Weapons Department. He wishes that civilians understood that veterans do certain things– things that people don't understand– for our country. Nelson was drafted when he was in high school, and he says basic training was more mental than physical. Nelson also developed many close relationships in the service, and that these people are like his family.

Air National Guard

Ms. Trinity is the Air National Guard, and she wants civilians to know that being in the military is a choice. When Ms. Trinity enlisted, she thought military life would be in the field. She came to find out that it was actually in the office. Her basic training was a learning experience. Ms. Trinity made lots of friends and also had a Thanksgiving dinner with her military family.



Heroes Off the Battlefield

Kelly Mero, Jane Dougherty, and Carmine Coco De Young all did not serve in the military, but still play a big part in helping our country. Kelly Mero had four ancestors who served in the Civil War. When asked what life was like back then, Mero said, “ Life was hard, people had to eat bad food, it was called hardtack,” Mero continues, “ I wish more people would study the Civil War and slavery, it was important.”

Jane Dougherty has been making quilts for 20 years. Dougherty makes quilts for active and retired veterans. At the presentation, students got a chance to sign next year's quilt.

Carmine Coco De Young is a blue-star mother, which means she has a child serving in the military. Her daughter Lauren served in the Army. De Young and her daughter both worked to help get the children of Iraq school supplies for their classrooms. “When Lauren first saw that the kids had nothing in their school, she said that we had to help them.” De Young and her daughter sent over 150 boxes to Iraq. Even though they did not serve on the field, they still helped our country.

**On behalf of the HMS
students, we would like to say
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICE.**

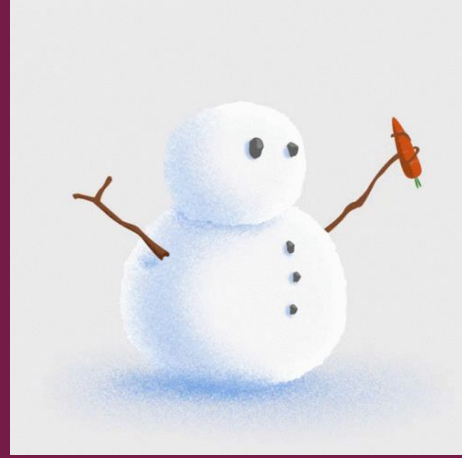
Winter Decorations

Created by:
Penny Smith

Make a snowflake!

All you need is paper and scissors for this.

1. Fold the paper however you want.
2. Cut random holes in random places (cut a lot or it will just look like a piece of paper with holes in it...)
3. Open it up. Yay! You probably did something better than the garbage that I made.



Make a paper cup snowman!

Get a paper cup, 3 tooth picks, paper, and tape.

First, poke a hole in the bottom of the cup and on the two different sides, poke 2 toothpicks in. Put a toothpick in the bottom hole. Then, tape a circle piece of paper with a snowman face onto the bottom toothpick. Congrats, you have a very nice snowman.



Review Crew

By: Chloe Butts, Evana Pais, and Riona Pais

Winter Edition

Evana – Movie

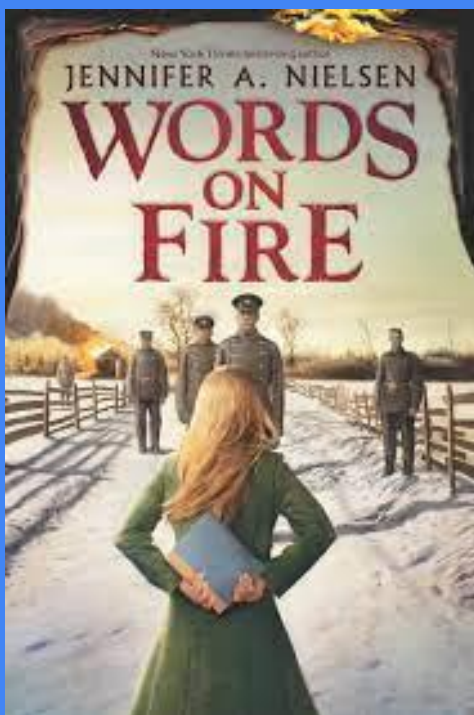


Movie Title: *Beauty and The Beast*

Director: Bill Condon

Beauty and the Beast is about a young woman named Belle, who falls in love with her captor, a beast, who is actually a cursed prince. As Belle gets to know the Beast, we start to see a new bond form between the two. With memorable songs, a talented cast, and stunning visuals, this is a must-watch for people who enjoyed the animated version of this movie!

Chloe – Book



Book Name: *Words On Fire*

Author: Jennifer Nielsen

Words on Fire is a historical fiction novel telling the story of 12 year-old Audra during the 1865 Lithuanian press ban. After her family is killed for owning books, she finds herself becoming a smuggler of the now banned language. This book is short and action packed. It is very binge worthy and I would recommend!

Riona – Song



Song title: "Let It Snow!"

Artist: Vaughn Monroe

This song was written by Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne, and sung by Vaughn Monroe. This song was written during a heatwave in Hollywood, pretty ironic right? "Let it Snow" is a great one to listen to while sitting by the fire hoping for snow.

NJHS BTS – Toys For Tots

Chloe, Evana, and Riona Report

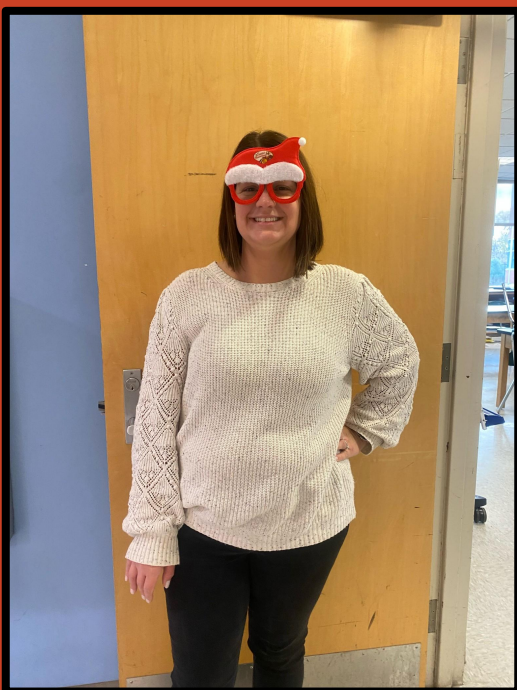
We asked the president & the NJHS advisors:

"What does this cause mean to you?"



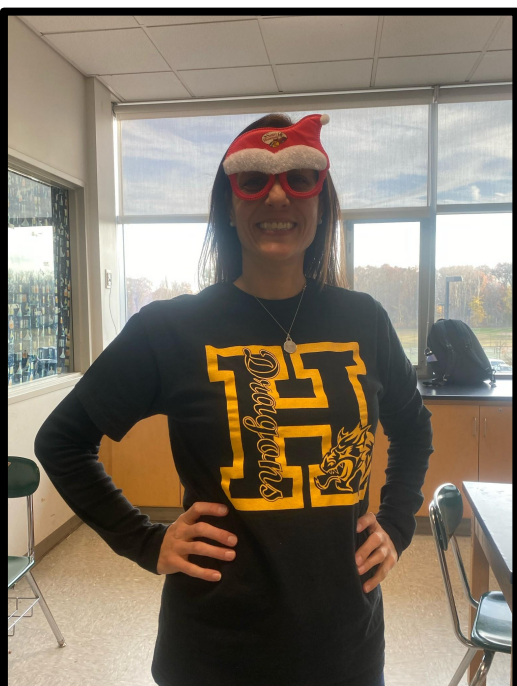
President: William Swan

"To me, this cause means helping little kids [K-6] during Christmas and bringing them joy when their families aren't able to afford it. We're spreading the holiday spirit through toy donations."



Advisor: Mrs. DeLucia

"It's actually really special to me because it really impacts our community. There's a lot of families in Hamden who struggle. This is just a small way we can help them out when they're in need and bring some joy to their holiday."

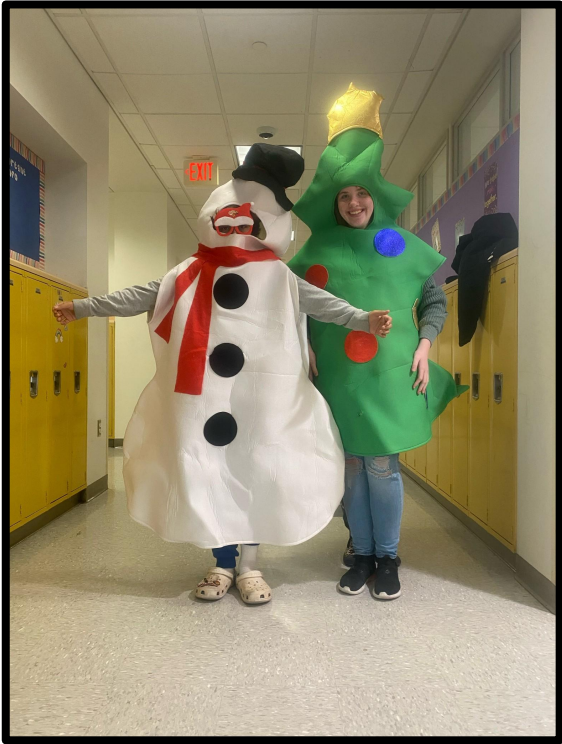


Advisor: Mrs. Rodriguez

"Christmas is one of my favorite holidays, and bringing joy to families in need within our community brings me a lot of joy."

NJHS BTS – Toys For Tots (Cont.)

Chloe, Evana, and Riona Reports



NJHS AD: Marco Moniello & Chloe Butts

NJHS made an ad to help spread the word about the toy donations. It was always featured at the end of each announcement video. Click [here](#) to watch the ad.



Wrapping Boxes

Wrapping boxes for each house hallway was tedious, but NJHS did it! Each box was carefully wrapped with unique add ons. In total, we wrapped ten boxes.



Final Results

Toys for Tots started on November 27th and ended on December 15th. The winning house was House 5, Team Holt. They collected 119 toys. Team Ugolik was very close behind. From the whole school, we collected around 300 donations and raised \$135.

TOYS FOR TOTS: TEAM UGOLIK

Reported by: Zariya Elahee

Team Ugolik made over \$1000 selling glow-in-the-dark bracelets to donate to Toys-For-Tots.

8 students went to Target to spend the money to buy toys for Toys-For-Tots.



In total we bought over 100 toys to donate to Toys-For-Tots.



Holiday songs: TOP TEN

Happy Holidays HMS! Having a holiday party and don't know what songs to play? We've all been there, and lucky for you, staff writer Annabelle Jefferson has a list of songs you can add to your holiday playlist.

1: "Jingle Bells" by James Lord Pierpont

This is the supreme holiday song. It's iconic and doesn't reference the holidays!

2: "All I Want for Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey

I think we all know why this is so high ranked. Everybody knows it!

3: "The Christmas Song" by Nat King Cole

Nat has one of the prettiest voices I know, so of course his song would be up here!

4: "Last Christmas" by Wham!

...Do I REALLY need to explain myself here? WE ALL KNOW IT!

5: "Puppy for Hanukkah" by Daveed Diggs

This is one of the funniest holiday songs I have ever heard!

6: "Winter Wonderland" by Tony Bennett

I think this one is beautiful but you can listen to whatever version!

7: "Feliz Navidad" by José Feliciano

Catchy song! There's a radio station in California that plays it for 24 hours without stopping!

8: "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" by Brenda Lee

Again, a very catchy song! Very recognizable!

9: "Hanukkah, O Hanukkah" by Barenaked Ladies

This song and many others on their holiday album are very good!

10: "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" by The Jackson 5

The Jacksons have AMAZING VOICES! And It's better than seeing Mommy kissing Santa Claus.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

"Snow miser & Heat miser" (from *The Year Without A Santa Claus*)

"One More Sleep Til Christmas" by Kermit the Frog

"Great Big Sled" by The Killers

Fun Stuff

Compiled By: Desmond Bohan,
Alexsander Matos & Wesley Rogerson

Word Search, The Frishman Says & Fun Facts!

November/December Word Search

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

- TURKEY
- CANDLES
- FAMILY
- HOLIDAY
- AUTUMN
- THANKSGIVING
- CHRISTMAS
- HANUKKAH
- COLD
- SNOW
- WINTER
- FEAST



Frishman Says!



Reporting By: Alexander Matos Euceda

Daily Dad Jokes from
Mr. Frishman, the House 3 Social Studies Teacher!

(Limited Winter Edition)



When it gets colder
outside, the English
Department should
do more summaries...
or just call them
winteries!



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Made on 11/29/2023
Hamden Middle School
HMS Dragons!

Fun Facts!

Did You Know that . . .

... some cats are actually allergic to humans just like some humans are allergic to them?

... crows are actually really intelligent, so they hold grudges and aren't scared of scarecrows?

... you can hear a blue whale's heartbeat from up to 2 miles away?

... babies have more bones in their bodies than adults?

Wholesome Fact of the Day:

Did you know that a group of bunnies is called a fluffle? Cute, right?

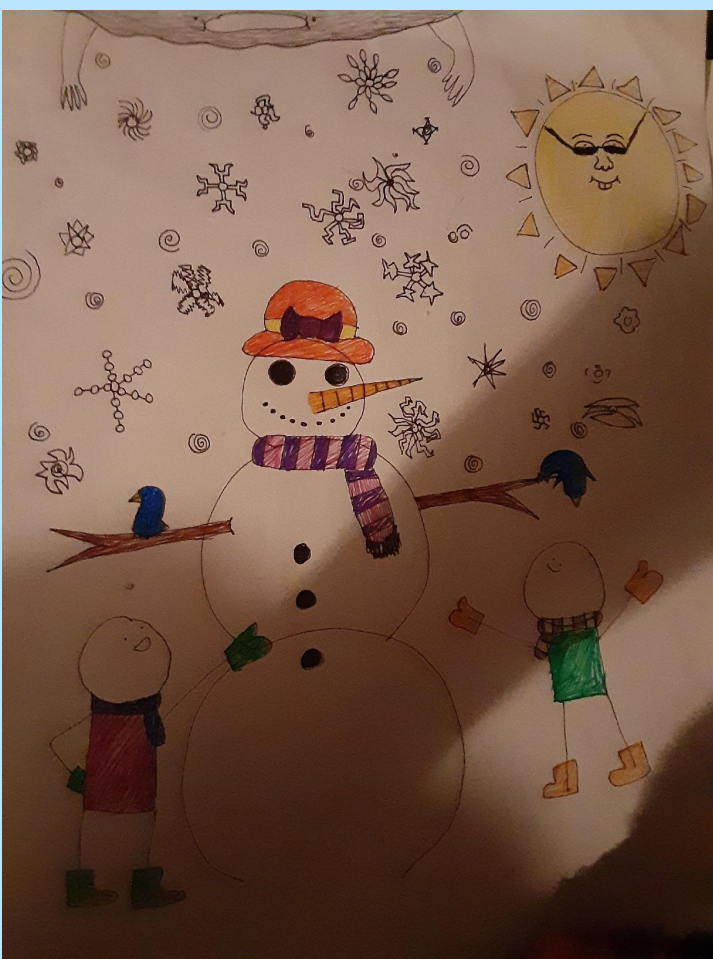


Traditional Art

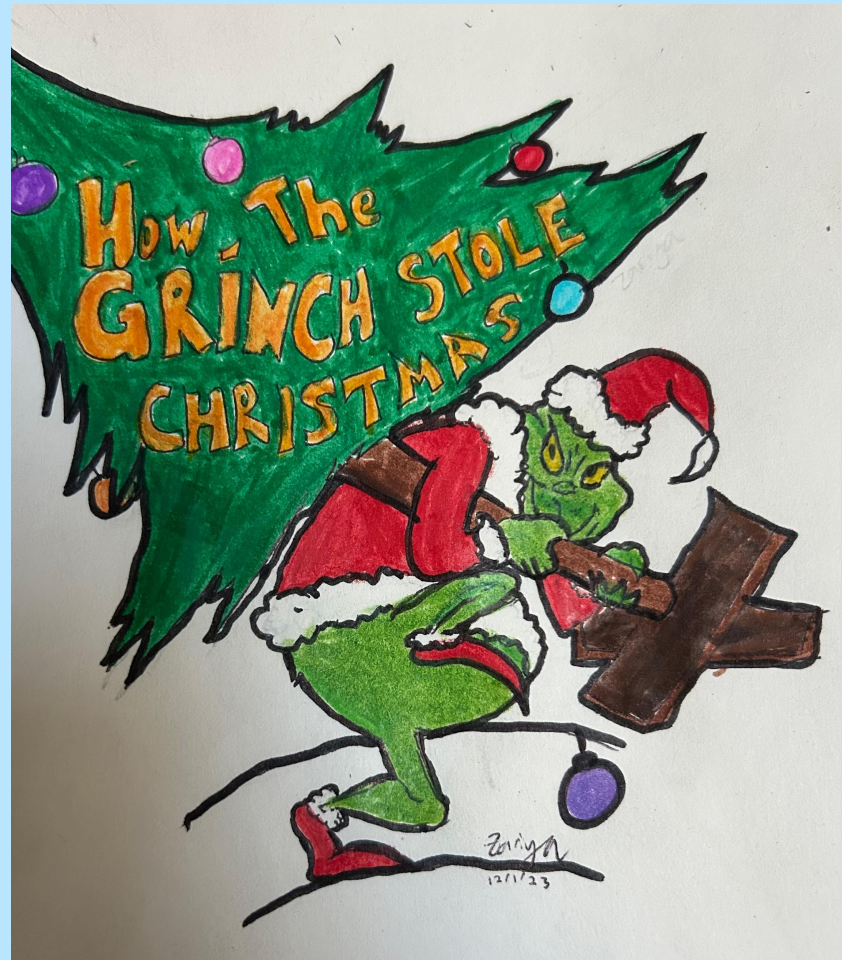
Zariya Elahee



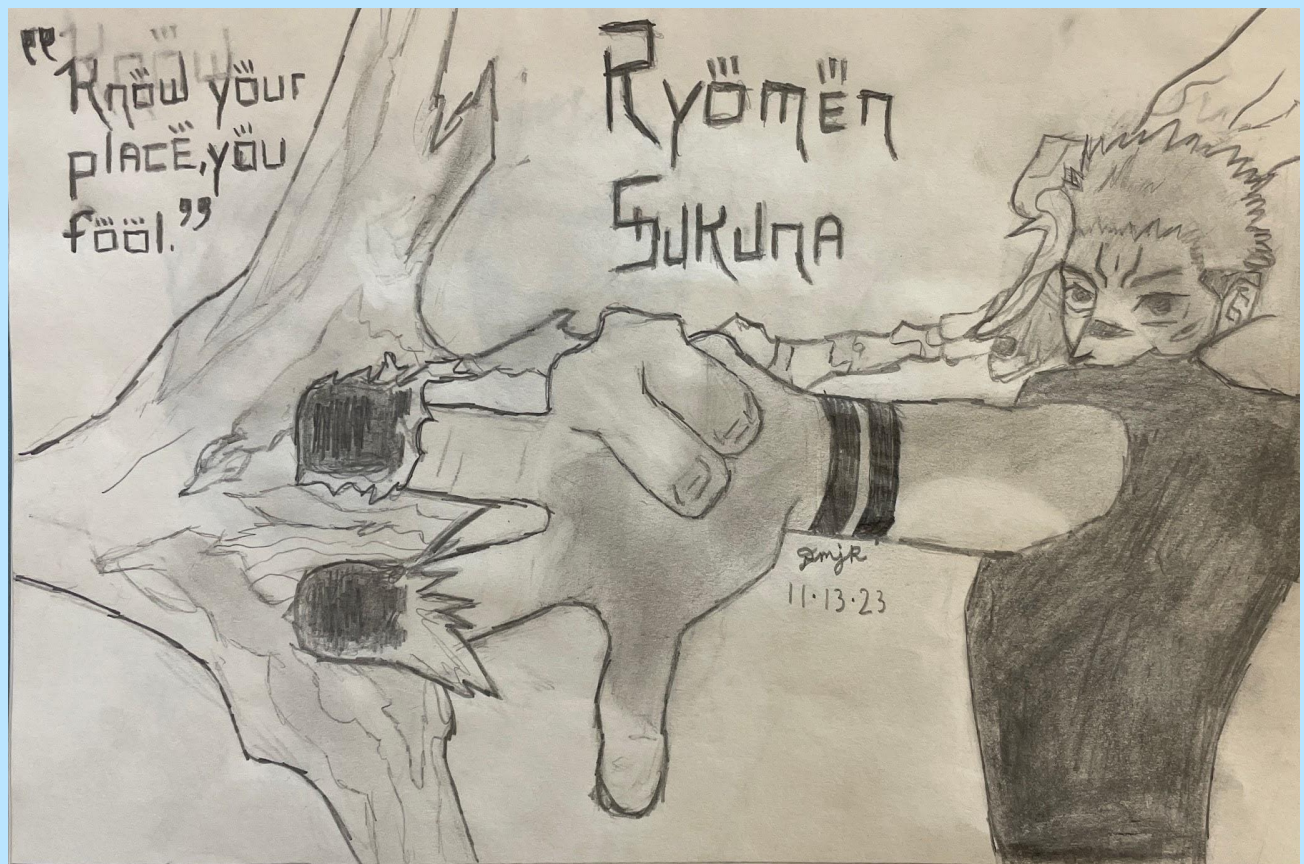
Penny
Smith



Zariya Elahee



David Kim



Book-mas Tree 2023

Created By: Chloe Butts



Happy Holidays Everyone!