

Larson Free Press

Happy Holidays!

Holidays are like glittering ornaments that decorate the tapestry of our lives with love, laughter, and cherished moments.



Kwanzaa

By: Sahasra Bathula

Kwanzaa is a holiday celebrated by African-Americans. It's mostly a celebration of African-American culture. It's also the celebration of unity, creativity, faith, and gift giving. Kwanzaa is celebrated from December 26 to January 1 which is SEVEN DAYS.



Christmas

By: Niva Somani

Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, who is worshiped as the son of God in Christianity, the world's largest religion. Celebrating Christmas is a magic festival that is all about sharing joy and happiness.



Hanukkah

By: Bliss Prakash Anand

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday which celebrates the miracle that happened at an ancient temple thousands of years ago. The most popular tradition of Hanukkah is lighting a menorah, which is a candlestick with branches. Some of the popular food eaten during Hanukkah are latkes, roasted chicken, and brisket.

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HOLIDAY PHRASE HUNT

There are four "Happy Holiday" phrases hidden throughout the issue, in four different articles!

If you can find all four then answer this survey below called "Larson Free Press Happy Holidays Phrase Hunt" survey with the article you found the phrase in!

The first two students from each grade to find all four phrases will win a prize! Good luck!

[Larson Free Press "Happy Holiday" Phase Hunt Survey!](#)

Larson Free Press "Happy Holiday" Phase Hunt



[What do you want to see in our next Issue?](#)

Larson Free Press

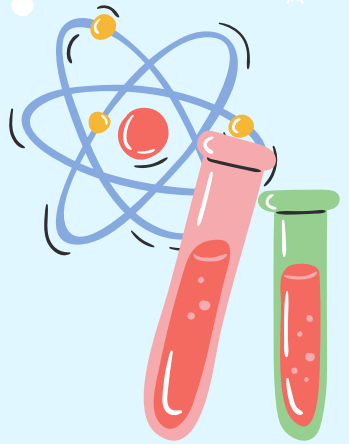


Community News

Science Olympiad Competition

By: Lakshya Matele

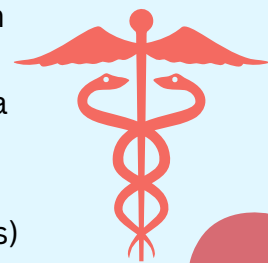
On December 9th, the Science Olympiad team went all the way to Ohio, for their first competition of the season! It was an exciting and very nervous day for everyone because this day we would find out how much we have learned about our events already and how much we will need to do more, in order to do better in the next one. Three groups in Larson got medals but, Larson itself did not place in the top six, which was okay considering it was our first competition! I wish the Science Olympiad team good luck for all the future competitions!!



HOSA Competition

By: Maruska Kadous

On Saturday, December 16 of 2023, the middle school H.O.S.A (Health Occupations Students of America) club competed for regionals. They were super enthusiastic and excited for this opportunity as well with a hint of nervousness. This event took place at Troy High School, from 8:00 to 3:00. First, all the students from all the local middle and high schools, which added up to be over 1,370 students (besides the adults) gathered in the gym for the opening ceremony. After that, everyone dispersed to their events, which were all scattered throughout the day. Lunch took place between 12:00-2:00, and students got to choose when they went and what they ate. An award ceremony started at 2:00 and ended at 3:00. This event was a very big deal for all the middle schools since it is the first year HOSA was introduced to the middle schools.



Mariah Carey tour "Merry Christmas One And All"

by: Shree Patel

The Queen of Christmas and music icon Mariah Carey has announced the return of her Christmas extravaganza – Merry Christmas One And All, with a stop in Chicago at the United Center on December 3! Produced by Live Nation, the Merry Christmas One And All! The Queen of Christmas is already spreading holiday cheer all over North America. Nobody puts on a live show quite like this hyper-talented diva. Mariah Carey has undergone her thirteenth, four residencies, along with numerous one-off concerts and televised performances. Carey did not do a significant amount of public performing in her early years in the music industry, partially due to stage fright. According to the Recording "Happy Holidays!" Industry Association of America, Mariah is the best-selling female artist of all time when it comes to albums. She has sold a total of 74 million albums worldwide. Why she on tour many people ask well according to Mariah her tour is a way to help give her fans "the merriest of Christmases" and for them to have an experience where they're "enjoying being together." Have a great holiday and enjoy more Mariah music.



Sports and holidays

Designed by: Raga Sloka

Kwanzaa

By: Sahasra Bathula

Kwanzaa is a holiday celebrated by African-Americans. It's mostly a celebration of African-American culture. It's also the celebration of unity, creativity, faith, and gift giving. Kwanzaa is celebrated from December 26 to January 1 which is SEVEN DAYS. Its communal feast is called Karamu which is usually on the sixth day. Kwanzaa was created by an activist named Maulana Karenga. There are seven principles of Kwanzaa. The principles are Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith). Candles play a big role in Kwanzaa. Each candle is a different color and they each represent a different principle. Kwanzaa was created in the 1960's. Some of the many "Happy Holidays!" famous foods eaten during Kwanzaa are catfish, collards, macaroni and cheese, jerk chicken. Black eyed peas are a very important symbol.

Euro Cup

By: Haris Grebovic & Gavin Cipi

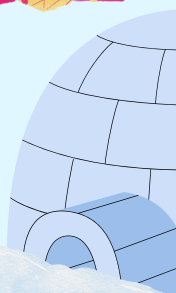
The Euros has finally started and so has the group stages. The Euro Cup is a Soccer tournament around Europe to find the best team to win the Euro Cup. With many underdog story's along the way. There is a total of 53 teams in the qualification matches. With only 18 of the teams passing to go to the group stage which starts in June of 2024. With the last Cup being in 2020 as Italy as the champions of Europe. With 2024 around the corner and the four years of waiting is finally over. The Euro cup will finally start. So make sure to go check the Euros out and watch teams like France, Spain, Albania, and more. So make sure that you go check out the euros to see who the new champion of Europe will be.



Christmas

By: Niva Somani

Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, who is worshiped as the son of God in Christianity, the world's largest religion. Celebrating Christmas is a magic festival that is all about sharing joy and happiness. In the old times Christmas was a 12-day festival involving all kinds of revelry, from plays to wild feasts to pageants celebrating Jesus' birth. Nowadays people decorate their homes, visit family or friends and exchange gifts, many people decorate their homes and gardens with lights, Christmas trees and much more. Christmas is now celebrated all over the world as a way for people to gather with their friends and family, Christmas is a wonderful way for people everywhere to celebrate kindness and joy with the people they love the most.





Books & Movies

EDITED BY LYDIA ORLIK



Christmas Chronicles

Movie Review by: Swarnima Jha

Who's ready for Christmas? Who's ready for Santa to give presents! Well I am. Non-Santa believers get ready to believe in Santa. This story takes place at home where there are two kids Teddy Pierce, and Kate Pierce having sibling fights every time. Once Teddy did something awful and his little sister recorded the whole thing. His little sister bet him by tracking Santa which Teddy thinks he wasn't real, but had to give in to not tell his mom, so they made a trap for Santa to see if he exists or not. Turns out whatever you believe comes true. Santa came down the chimney and they went outside to see Santa in his sleigh, but, Katie jumps on the sleigh and Teddy too. When all of a sudden Santa is shocked by the surprise and Christmas is nothing like before. Find out more how will they fix Christmas, gifts, and drama more detail on "The Christmas Chronicles."



Home Alone Franchise

Movie Review By: Bryce Wilson

Home Alone is a good classic movie that was made in 1990. Home Alone is a movie that is about an 8-year-old boy that is left home alone because his family didn't bring him on their Christmas vacation by accident. "Happy Holidays!" His house is a target to criminals named Marv and Harry. This movie is a favorite to a lot of people. There is not just one movie, there is 6, Home Alone, Home Alone Lost In New York, Home Alone 3, Home Alone 4, Home Alone The Holiday Heist, and the newest one, Home Sweet Home Alone. The first two with Macaulay Culkin were definitely the best. This is a holiday favorite and hopefully you can watch these movies this Christmas break!



Percy Jackson Series

TV Series Promotion: Jasmine Thomas

The Percy Jackson series is finally here! It comes out on December 20th, with the first two episodes being released on Disney+. Each episode is expected to be 1 hour long, and the first series will have 8 episodes. The titles of the episodes are some of the actual chapter names in the first book, (Ex: Accidentally Vaporized my Pre-Algebra Teacher, I Become Supreme Lord of the Bathroom, We Take a Zebra to Vegas, etc.) Rick Riordan also has been asked to write a couple of the episodes, so it's likely that it will stay truer to the books than the movie did. Although, he also said that he will be excited to see how it is different, and he can try new things with the characters. All in all, I recommend the series to anyone who likes mythology, fantasy, or just loved the books.





Books and Movies

EDITED BY LYDIA ORLIK



Elf

Movie Review by: Sonali Rana

Buddy played by Will Farrell is unintentionally transported to the North Pole as a baby, and was raised by Santa's elves. Though he was one of the most passionate and enthusiastic elves, he always felt like he didn't fit in. Adult Buddy travels to New York wearing his full elf uniform, in search of his father. Walter Hobbs, a cynical businessman, turns out to be his father. Walter reluctantly attempts to start a relationship with child-like Buddy with chaotic results. Elf is an amazing Christmas movie great for the whole family. This movie got 4.5 stars and great reviews. This is a perfect funny holiday movie for any day of the year! Make sure you watch Elf this Holiday break!



The Polar Express

Movie Review by: Lakshya Matele

This classic and heartfelt holiday movie by directors Tom Hanks and Robert Zemeckis, who have also directed the movies "Forrest Gump" and "Cast Away" reunite to make this wonderful holiday tale based on a wonderful holiday book! This movie is based on a little boy who goes on an adventure by taking a magical train ride to the North Pole, where he learns about many things, including the spirit of Christmas! According to Google Users 85% people liked this movie and according to the audience rating summery this movie is rated a 4.5 out of 5 stars! This animated holiday film is not one to miss out on! Hope you enjoy this movie as much as I did!



Dress Coded - Carrie Firestone

Book Review by: Lydia Orlik

Molly Frost is facing an issue, every girl in her school is being dress coded... For nothing! For skirts an inch short, and shirt straps that don't perfectly fit 3 fingers. Not only that, but it seems to be only curvy girls that are targeted, leaving the "invisibles" left alone just because they don't have enough to show. Staff roam the halls looking for a single bit of skin to yell at the girls for, but boys don't get the same treatment. Once she hears that Olivia is yelled at so much that she cries, that sparks inspiration in Molly. It's up to her to make an end to this for future generations of girls at her school. Making a podcast with a couple of friends and making it public to show everyone their school's terrible dress code. Join Molly through many protests, middle school relationships, and drama!





World News

World's Largest Iceberg!

By: Ashay Patel

Ships in the Southern Ocean will have to keep an eye out for a monstrous sized iceberg, as it is larger than the Hawaiian island of Oahu, as it is more than 40 nautical miles long and 25 nautical miles wide. Welcome to the ginormous iceberg called A23-A! This huge mass of ice weighs more than 1,000,000,000,000 tons and even has a research station on it. Yes, Soviet research called Druzhnaya 1 was still on it. As a matter of fact, this research station has been on it since 1987, but little did they know, but that location turned into an iceberg! This iceberg has been in the process of forming for many decades, and it has moved more than 40 miles from where it is right now! This is a true scientific marvel, and It might even reach Manhattan by February of next year given its current course.

World's Most Famous Christmas Tree

By: Amogh Maral

Every year in the city of London, England, a Christmas tree is put up in Trafalgar Square. The Christmas tree is an annual gift given by the people of Norway to the Great Britain during the World War II since 1942. In 1942 a tree was cut down by a Norwegian renaissance fighter, Mons Uransvag. During a raid in Hisey Island off the west coast of Norway, The that was cut down by Mons Uransvag was shipped to England where the Norwegian King, Haakon VII, was in exile, and it was given to him. A new tree was grown in honor of him from the same stump of the original tree. Since then, the tree has been hosting a traditional caroling performance, performed by different groups who are raising Money for charities and people in need. The tree is shipped every year from the city of Oslo, Norway to London, England. The tree lighting ceremony in Trafalgar Square takes place on the first Thursday of December and is attended by thousands of people. The lighting ceremony is lit by the Mayor of Westminster, London and is followed by a band and choir. The tree is decorated with 500 white lights and traditional Norwegian decorations. The Trafalgar Square Tree has a very interesting history and importance, that is why it is one of the most famous Christmas trees.



Designed by: Samith Cholaveti

Tips and Tricks

Holiday Music Recommendations

By Sahasra Bathula and Lakshya Matele

1. [“All I Want For Christmas Is You”](#) - By: [Mariah Carey](#)
2. [“Last Christmas”](#) - By: [George Michael](#)
3. [“Deck the halls”](#) - By: [Thomas Oliphant](#)
4. [“Jingles Bells”](#) - By: [James Pierpont](#)
5. [“Rocking Around The Christmas Tree”](#) - By: [Brenda Lee](#)
6. [“Silver Bells”](#) - By: [Ray Evans & Jay Livingston](#)
7. [“Frosty The Snowman”](#) - By: [Steve Nelson and Walter E. Rollins](#)
8. [“A Holly Jolly Christmas”](#) - By: [Burl Ives](#)
9. [“Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer”](#) - By: [Johnny Marks](#)
10. [“White Christmas”](#) - By: [Irving Berlin](#)
11. [“Let It Snow”](#) - By: [Dean Martin](#)
12. [“Fairytale Of New York”](#) - By: [The Pogues](#)
13. [“Silent Night”](#) - By: [Taylor Swift](#) (Taylor Swift’s version)
14. [“Santa Claus Is Coming To Town”](#) - By: [Fred Astaire](#)
15. [“Feliz Navidad”](#) - [José Feliciano](#)
16. [“Jingle Bell Rock”](#) - [Bobby Helms](#)
17. [“Mistletoe”](#) - By: [Justin Bieber](#)
18. [“Santa Tell Me”](#) - By: [Ariana Grande](#)
19. [“Last Christmas”](#) - By: [Ariana Grande](#) (Ariana Grande’s version)
20. [“Underneath the Tree”](#) - By: [Kelly Clarkson](#)
21. [“Christmas tree farm”](#) - By: [Taylor Swift](#)
22. [“A nonsense Christmas](#) - By: [Sabrina Carpenter](#)
23. [“Santa doesn’t know you like I do”](#) - By: [Sabrina Carpenter](#)
24. [“Sleigh Ride”](#) - By: [Miley Cyrus](#)
25. [“You’re a mean one Mr. Grinch”](#) - By: [Lindsey Sterling and Sabrina Carpenter](#)
26. [“Its the most wonderful time of the year”](#) - By: [Kylie Minogue](#)
27. [“I am the Grinch”](#) - By: [Tyler, the creator](#)
28. [“Merry Christmas”](#) -By: [Ed Sheeran and Elton John](#)
29. [“Winter Wonderland”](#) - By: [Selena Gomez](#)
30. [“The Christmas Duck Song“](#) - By: [Bryant Oden](#)
31. [“We wish you a Merry Christmas”](#) - By: [Arthur Warrell](#)
32. [“All I Want for Christmas are my Two Front Teeth”](#) - By: [Donald Yetter](#)

Click on these names of songs
to view the video!



Baking in winter

By: **Ada Dogramacilar**

Winter is the most fun and joyful time of the year and to bake. Who dosen't love baking Christmas cookies. I have a delicious recipe for you to bake and an joy anytime of the year mostly winter. You can decorate it or leave it plain, your chose. So let's get baking. Link on the right -> [Your paragraph text](#). This is the link to the best cookies, it takes about 2 hours and 5 minutes, but if you want a shorter recipe I got you. Link on the right -> [Your paragraph text](#). This recipe takes about only, 35 minutes. I hope you have a great winter break.



Entertainment



Did you know...

By: Lakshya Matele

1. More than 22 million tons of salt are used on U.S roads each winter!
2. The snowiest city on Earth is Japan, it gets around 26 feet of snow each year!
3. Reindeers can see in the dark!
4. The Earth is closest to the sun in winter!
5. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby is the number one Christmas song of all time!
6. Home Alone is ranked as the number one most watched Christmas movie!
7. December is National Pear month!
8. Right after Christmas on December 26th, is National Candy Cane Day!
9. Walt Disney was born on December 5th, 1901!
10. The Bill of Rights came into effect on December 15th, 1791!
11. December 28th is considered to be the unluckiest day of the year!
12. The birthstone for December is Turquoise, viewed as a symbol of good luck and achievement!
13. The flower for December is holly, symbolizing good luck and protection and the paperwhite narcissus sybolizing purity and sweetness.
14. Winter lasts for 21 years on Uranus.
15. The first candy canes were made without stripes.
16. A snowflake can take up to two hours to fall from the clouds to the ground.
17. The tallest known snowman was higher than a 12-story building.
18. It is so cold in Siberia that your breath can turn into ice in midair.
19. Almost 90% of snow is air.
20. The North Pole is warmer than the South Pole.
21. 3 billion Christmas cards are sent in the U.S.
22. All the gifts in the song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" would equal to 364 gifts from the true love.





Entertainment



Crafts

By: Sonali Rana

Holiday break is the perfect time to try-out some new crafts!

1. Tea light Ornament:

for this all you need is a tea light candle, a pipe cleaner, glue, and a sharpie. All you have to do is take the sharpie and draw two dots on that face of the tea light creating eyes, then glue the pipe cleaner to the back. Now hang it and turn it on. Be creative with it, you could even add a hat and a scarf! You have an adorable snowman ornament!

2. Edible Dreidels:

for this you will need marshmallows, Hershey kisses, and pretzels sticks. "Happy Holidays!" First take the marshmallow and stick it onto the pretzels, add on the Hershey kiss on top of the marshmallow and you have your basic shape! You now can either leave it like this or take an extra step and dip it in melted chocolate for a smooth surface!

3. Snow Painting:

The things you need for this craft is very simple and perfect for a snowy day! You need snow outside (enough to cover the grass or pavement), a water bottle, and food coloring. First take the bottle and mix in some food dye, be sure to add enough so the water has enough pigment. Then have an adult poke a hole in the cap so you can squeeze out the water. You could also use a spray bottle instead. Finally squirt it outside to make beautiful designs. Experiment with many different colors and hole sizes! Have fun!

