

THE FALCON FORUM

Editor: Maddie Pollock



Staff:

Abigail Taylor

Arrow Hartman

Aliyah Benton

Anna-Kate Mather

Bennett Brownlee

Brooklyn Craft

Boston Hedgpeth

Caroline Taylor

Elise Satcher

Ella Claire Smigiel

Faith Faris

Gemma Potter

Harper Robinson

Helen Kip

Holden Muth

Ian Johnson

Meagan Jones

Isaac Gay

Jude Granger

Jude McLawhorn

Juliet Spring

Katie Reid Stratton

Katy Noonan

Maddie Pollock

Madison Clark McLawhorn

Madelyn Baughman

Matt Cole

May Kelley

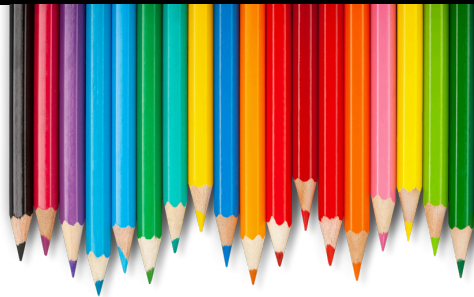
Weston Phillips

Spencer Barno

Violet Keeter

IN THIS MONTHS ISSUE WE HAVE...

- UPLIFTING DEVOTIONAL
- UPCOMING HOLIDAYS
- COMICS
- CHRISTMAS RECIPE
- DID YOU KNOW SECTION
- POETRY, ANIMAL OF THE MONTH, AND MORE!



DECEMBER NARRATIVE



WRITTEN BY: MADDIE POLLOCK (7TH)

Hello Falcons! Welcome to the December issue of the Falcon Forum.

As we head into the break, it begins to look more and more like Christmas each day! Just don't forget the reason for the season.

All of the decorations can sometimes make us forget why we really have a Christmas! Whether it's going to a live nativity or even just reading the Christmas story, I'm sure we can all find at least one way to honor the true meaning of Christmas.

Merry Christmas, Falcons! (and a Happy New Year!)



JANUARY CALENDAR

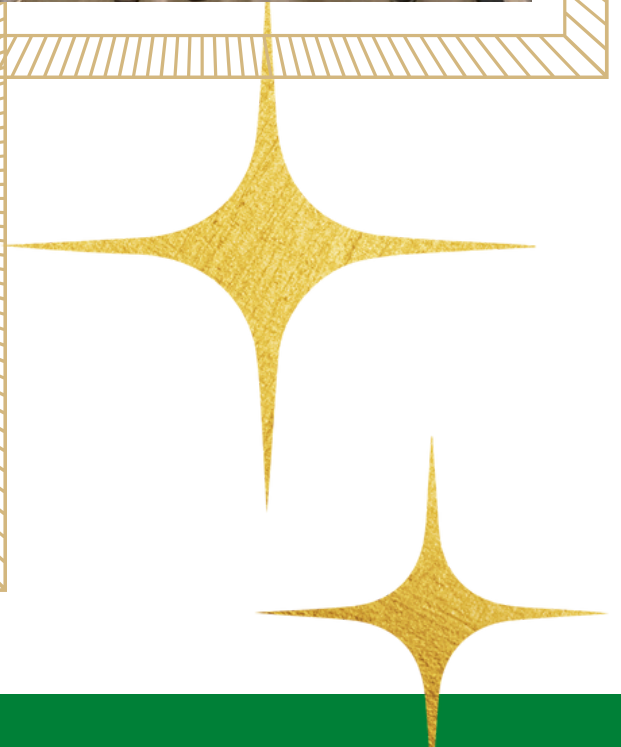
CREATED BY: MADDIE POLLOCK (7TH)

BY MADDIE POLLOCK (7TH)



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2	3	4	5
← CHRISTMAS BREAK →						
6 NO SCHOOL	7	8	9	10 	11	12 
13 NO SCHOOL (MLK JR)	14	15 	16	17	18	19
← MAD TESTING →						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL!!!
27 	28	29	30 	31	(CHRISTMAS BREAK DECEMBER 13 - JANUARY 3)	
← INTERNATIONAL WEEK →						

SPIRIT OF GIVING WEEK PHOTOS!



SPIRIT OF GIVING WEEK PHOTOS!



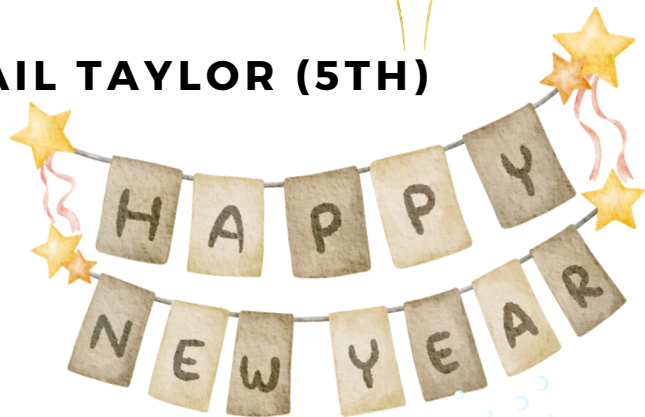
SPIRIT OF GIVING WEEK PHOTOS!



UPCOMING NATIONAL JANUARY HOLIDAYS!

CREATED BY: ABIGAIL TAYLOR (5TH)

- ✘ New Year's Day - January 1
- ✘ Buffet Day - January 2
- ✘ Trivia Day - January 4
- ✘ Whipped Cream Day - January 5
- ✘ Bubble Bath Day - January 8
- ✘ Dress Up Your Pet Day - January 14
- ✘ Martin Luther King Jr. Day - January 15
- ✘ Popcorn Day - January 19
- ✘ Hugging Day - January 21
- ✘ Compliment Day - January 24
- ✘ Opposite Day - January 25
- ✘ Hot Chocolate Day - January 31



CHOCOLATE
IS
like a hug
FROM THE
INSIDE

GRADE LEVEL

NEWS



5th Grade News!

WRITTEN BY:

**MEAGAN JASMINE JONES &
ELLA CLAIRE SMIGIEL (5TH)**

All I want for Christ- oh I didn't see you there! You want 5th grade news? Ok here's the news for 5th grade! Are you excited for the holidays? Me too!!! And I can't wait for those yummy snacks at the parties. When Christmas comes, some think it's about the presents, or the tree, but really it is about Jesus and family. In the Bible, we are learning the iconic Christmas story, the one about Jesus, not Santa of course. So, when Christmas comes around, make sure you think not just about presents and getting the tree just right, but think about Jesus! Now I, Meagan Jasmine Jones, am signing off, and turning it over to Ella Claire Smigiel!

Hello BLS! I hope you are having a wonderful Christmas season so far and that you are learning more about the Bible and the true meaning of Christmas by reading about the Christmas story!

*Have a GREAT rest of the Christmas season!
Ella Claire Smigiel and
Meagan Jasmine Jones*

Poetry

WRITTEN BY:

**MADISON CLARK
MCLAWHORN (7TH)**



The pretty lights are in the air
True smiles that you wear
Pretty ideas Christmas lights
giving us quite some sights
Ready now for the story
Story of the savior's glory
Ready is the everything
With the smile that will sing
Shall never be the center
But oh so perfect
On this perfect winter



RECIPE OF THE MONTH



CREATED BY:
BENNETT BROWNLEE (6TH)

Christmas Sugar Cookies

This is an amazing recipe for soft and chewy sugar cookies that you can make for Christmas!

Here's what you'll need:

- Flour
- Butter
- Sugar
- Eggs
- Baking Soda
- Baking Powder
- Vanilla Extract
- Almond Extract



Instructions:

Step 1: Mix the sugar and butter together until light and fluffy. Scrape off the excess mix off the edges.

Step 2: Stir in the egg, vanilla extract and almond extract.

Step 3: Whisk the flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt into a medium bowl

Step 4: Add the dry ingredients to the egg and butter mixture and stir. Don't over mix!

Step 5: Scoop the cookie dough into balls using your hands and then roll each ball in a small bowl of granulated sugar. Set the cookie dough balls on a parchment covered baking sheet and chill for 30 minutes.

Step 6: While the dough is chilling, preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Then bake for 11-12 minutes. Let the cookies rest for about ten minutes then ENJOY!

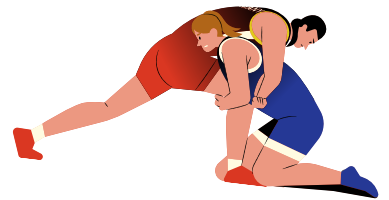
FALCON SPORTS COLUMN

BY HOLDEN MUTH (6TH)

Winter is here and sports are starting up! Christmas Break is speeding our way, and after that, it's "Sports City!"



So far we have wrestling and sailing. The Sailing Team won the Regatta Midlands race, coming in 1st and 3rd. We are expecting a lot from them, so let's give them all our support.



Our football team had an amazing season, so let's thank them for that. Good job, everybody!

Also, basketball tryouts have just ended, and the season is starting. So let's have a great season and have fun.



And remember no matter who you are or what sport you play, God will keep you safe and ultimately, He is the one who gives you the ability in the first place. So whatever you do, do it for the glory of God. And remember: **Win on the scoreboard, Win in life, Win for eternity.**

ANIMAL *Of the* MONTH

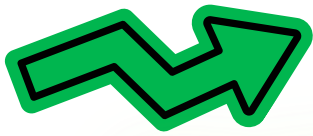


WRITTEN BY ELISE SATCHER (7TH)

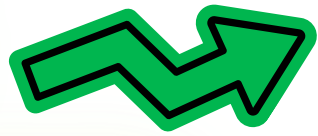
- Reindeer antlers are found on both males and females.
- Their sense of sight and hearing aren't brilliant; they rely mainly on their sense of smell.
- When they walk they click...it's a tendon in their foot passing over a bone!
- The first known written account of reindeer in association with the legend of Santa Claus occurred in 1821 in a booklet called 'A New Year's Present'.

**"Grandma got run over by a
reindeer
Walking home from our house
Christmas Eve!
You can say there's no such
thing as Santa,
but as for me and Grandpa
we believe!"**





TRENDS IN



MIDDLE SCHOOL

CREATED BY FAITH FARIS (7TH), PHOEBE AYLESTOCK (6TH), REAGAN YAUCOBIAN (7TH), PARKER BONESTEEL (7TH), ELISE SATCHER (7TH), AND CAROLINE TAYLOR (7TH)

Trends



Christmas Drinks



Christmas Movies



Ben Lippen Christmas



Christmas Tree



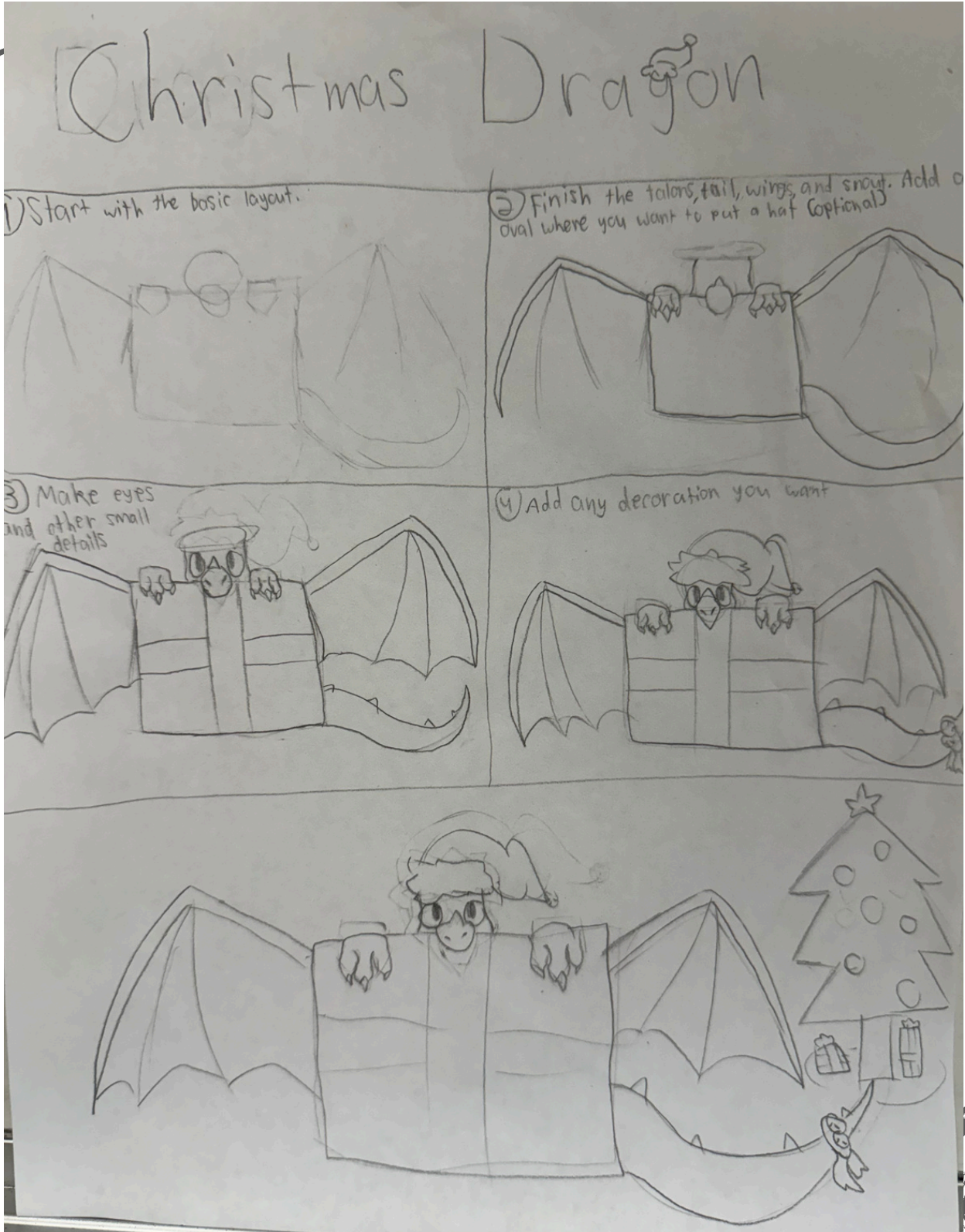
Christmas Kendra Scott

HOW TO...



CREATED BY:
ALIYAH BENTON (7TH)

Draw!



Did You Know...

About Christmas Songs?

**WRITTEN BY:
JUDE MCLAWHORN (6TH)**

1. "Jingle Bells" was originally written as a Thanksgiving song by James Pierpont.
2. "Jingle Bells" was the first song played in space.
3. The oldest Christmas song ever is "Jesus Refulsit Omnium."
4. The song "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree" was recorded by Brenda Lee at the age of 13!



5. The Christmas song that is played the most is "All I Want for Christmas Is You."
6. The first Christmas song to ever mention Santa was "Up on the Housetop."
7. 49,000 Christmas songs exist in the world!
8. The song "Joy to The World" is a song based on Psalm 98.
9. "White Christmas" by Irving Berlin is known to be one of the best-selling single records of all time.
10. The song "You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch" was sung by Thurl Ravenscroft who is the mascot for Frosted Flakes.



DIY by Doodle

**WRITTEN BY:
HARPER ROBINSON (5TH)**

Hello once again! It's Harper! This month, I will show you how to make a Ribbon Hair Tie or Bracelet.

Supplies Needed:

- A ribbon (that stretches. Can be found at "Michael's" or "Hobby Lobby")
- A pair of scissors
- And your creativity!



Steps:

1. Start by cutting a piece of ribbon with your scissors
2. Next, tie it in a knot!
3. Use it as a hair tie or bracelet!



It's that short and that easy!
Merry christmas!!



"WORD OF GOD SPEAK"

WRITTEN BY: MAY KELLEY,
HELEN KIP, &
KATIE REID STRATTON (5TH)



WE PRESENT TO YOU ... A DEVOTIONAL!!!

This month's verse is, "AND MAY THE LORD MAKE YOU INCREASE AND ABOUND IN LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER AND FOR ALL, AS WE DO FOR YOU" (John 4:8).

We recommend this verse to you because it says may the LORD make you abound in love for others and for all, as we do for you, which means we should love others like they have done to us and like Jesus has done for us!

Also, this verse talks about loving one another. Treat others the way you want to be treated, and care for each other as you want to be cared for. Some examples of that include praying for others when they're going through a hard time, helping someone if they're struggling in class, and just being a good friend!

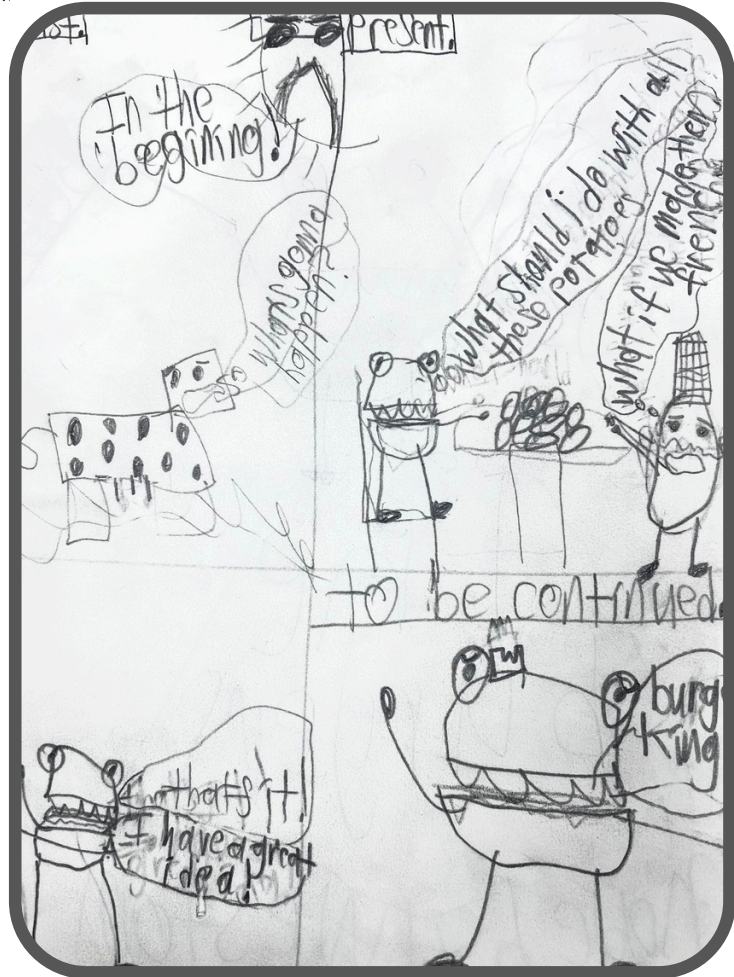
COMICS!



CREATED BY:
IAN JOHNSON (6TH)



CREATED BY:
WESTON PHILLIPS (6TH)

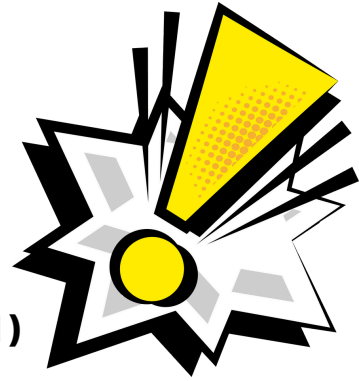


COMICS!

CREATED BY:
JUDE GRANGER (6TH)



CREATED BY:
MATT COLE (6TH)



the DUMB FARMER



CREATED BY:
JULIET SPRING (5TH)



RANDOM FACTS, FOR FALCONS!

CREATED BY:
ISAAC GAY (6TH)

3 billion Christmas cards are sent in the U.S. each year.



Christmas trees have been sold in the U.S. since 1850.

It takes about 15 years to grow the average Christmas tree



Alabama was the first state to officially recognize Christmas in 1836

Santa Claus is 1750 years old.
No wonder his beard is so white!



If your tree is cut late enough in the season, it can last you to Saint Patrick's Day.



Christmas tree farms act as a gigantic air purifier.

CHECK OUT OUR POLLS!

CREATED AND DESIGNED BY:
VIOLET KEETER (6TH) AND HOLDEN MUTH (6TH)

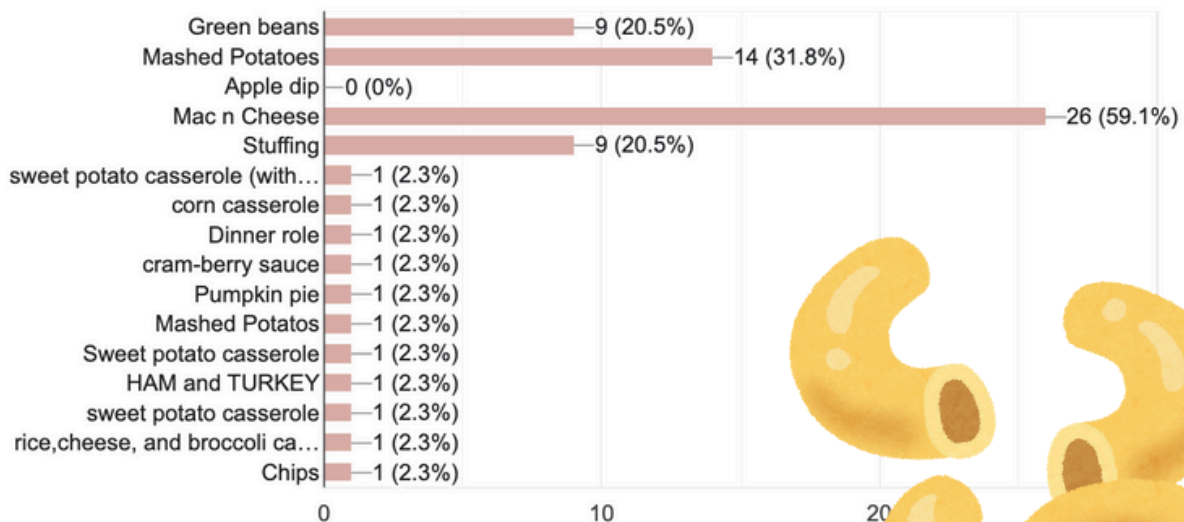
Be sure to click the link for our December Polls in the email! Below are some results from last month's polls.

We hope you enjoy it!

MAC 'N' CHEESE WINS!

What's your favorite Thanksgiving side?

44 responses



Advice Column

WRITTEN BY: KATY NOONAN (7TH)

As we head into Christmas, there are a few things to remember. The first thing you need to remember is the true reason for the season, Jesus. He came to earth as a baby to save us. So as you think about Santa and Frosty the snowman, don't forget that Jesus is the ultimate Christmas Character.

Another thing is to have fun! Hang out with your friends and family, and spend time with people you love. Watch Christmas movies, bake cookies, re-read the Christmas story, and any other Christmas traditions that you love. Merry Christmas!



STAFF EDITORS: MRS. BECCA JENKINS - REBECCA.JENKINS@BENLIPPEN.COM; MRS. RACHEL PEAKE ~ RACHEL.PEAKE@BENLIPPEN.COM

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR EDITOR: MADDIE POLLOCK AND OUR FALCON FORUM STAFF
FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO THIS PROJECT!**