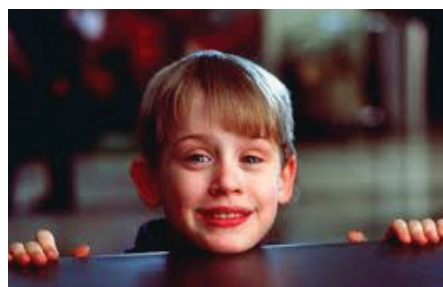


WINTER HUNTING: TIPS FROM STUDENT HUNTERS

Turn to **PAGE 5** to learn some winter hunting tips and tricks from Ryan and Harry.



HOLIDAY CHARACTER LOOKALIKES

Do you have a holiday character look-a-like? Turn to **PAGE 7** to find out.



DANIEL'S FANTASTIC HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Need help finding a gift for your mom, your best friend, or even your situationship? Turn to **PAGE 10** for Daniel's comprehensive gift guide.

THE INLET

Vol. 13, No. 2

SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2024



PHOTOS BY MRS. TREHARNE
THE PREK 4 CLASS AND THE SENIORS MAKE SOME "HAND AND FEET TURKEYS" TOGETHER RIGHT BEFORE THANKSGIVING. THEY EACH PAINTED EACH OTHERS' FEET AND ENJOYED A LOT OF LAUGHS.

SENIOR / PreK 4 CROSSOVER



By Sadie Green-Clark

Last year, Mrs. Treharne's College English 12 class paired up with Mrs. Green's PreK 3 class for activities and fun visits. This year, her class of six College English students are pairing with Mrs. Stumme's PreK4 class of 12. They have made a commitment to do monthly visits to the PreK room to build bonds with each other, be students' helpers, support the curriculum, and mentor kids.

The initial visits were in October. Seniors joined the PreK for their morning meeting. It was not just a simple hello, however. Seniors and the PreK 4s joined together for a "stinky shoe greeting." Each person in the circle (bigs and littles alike) removed a shoe and tossed it into the center of the circle. One at a time, participants selected a shoe and had to say a kind good morning introduction while passing the shoe back to its owner. This activity helped both grades to get to know names and faces.

Then, everyone got into their first activity, which was helping the PreK with building block structures. Parking garages, roads, and houses were built all across the classroom floor.

More recently, seniors and PreK 4 students painted each other's hands and bare feet (!!) to make special Thanksgiving turkey art. They discovered who is and isn't ticklish in that activity! About the crossovers, PreK4 teacher Mrs. Stumme says, "I love it, I think that it's important for the PreK4 students to learn about who the older students are in the school. It is important to have those experiences as a kid, they get very excited to see someone they know in the hallways." Mrs. Stumme notes it is also beneficial to the seniors. She explains, "I would say it is really important for them [the seniors] to learn to slow down and that things can be taught or learned a different way." Mrs. Stumme hopes that the PreK 4 will "develop a sense of

security in the building when they see big kids in the school and know that older students are looking out for them." And, in turn, the seniors can "build self-esteem by taking ownership and having responsibility." Mrs. Treharne agrees the trips are very worth missing class for once a month. "When the seniors first go in, most of them are shy just like the little kids. It is really great to watch them get more confident and get down on the little kids' levels and build bonds with them. My big kids always leave our time with the PreK smiling, laughing, and recounting stories of funny things the kids said or did. They

wind up bonding with one or two in particular and watching the faces of the little ones light up when 'their senior' walks in makes me so happy."

Senior Betzaida Campos enjoys her time in the PreK. She shares, "I think it is really nice to do things for other kids. We get to help them out on projects and it is a lot of fun." Senior Johanna Kassik adds, "When we are there it is really nice, it reminds me of when we were little." The visits will continue throughout the year and these special bonds are sure to grow.

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SHOULD SNOW DAYS STILL EXIST?

BY ROSIE HANLEY

As the air starts to get colder and the days shorter, many people begin hoping to see the true symbol of the season: snow. Across the world, in everything from action movies, to rom-coms, to kids movies, holiday spirit is shown hand and hand with frosty windows, freezing hands, and happy kids leaving school to sled and make snowmen. And what's one of the best parts about snow? Snow days! However, after the COVID-19 pandemic, when the entire world was forced indoors, school districts found that just because children can't actually come into school does not mean they shouldn't have it at all. In many districts across the U.S., schools have replaced real snow days with online learning days. In my opinion, while having snow days can disrupt the flow of the school year, it is more detrimental to students for schools to cut them out entirely and replace them with days of online learning. I understand that limiting snow days to a certain number could be a happy middle ground between parents, students, and the schools themselves, but don't cut snow days altogether. Snow days are a small part of childhood magic, to lose them is just too sad.

Snow days have wonderful benefits. They are an unexpected at home day which can lead to family bonding. While younger kids typically spend a lot of time with their parents because of the amount of care they require, many teenagers can end up seeing their parents and siblings less throughout the day as they get busier with school and extracurricular activities. Busy student schedules can cut down on the old fashioned family bonding that may have occurred every weekend in the past. In my own experience, as I have progressed through high school I have seen my parents less and less. A few years ago,

however, when Shelter Island got its very own snow day, I was able to spend the day with my parents and sister sledding on Goat Hill and made some special memories. That experience is one of the main reasons I believe that snow days should definitely exist, no matter how far virtual learning progresses.

However, I understand that most parents are not able to get away from work for one day with very little warning. Snow days can be hard for families too. So, putting a limit on how many snow days per year a school will have before schools transition to online learning could be beneficial. This way, students and parents could anticipate how many days they might actually have free snow days and also anticipate when online learning would replace days off.

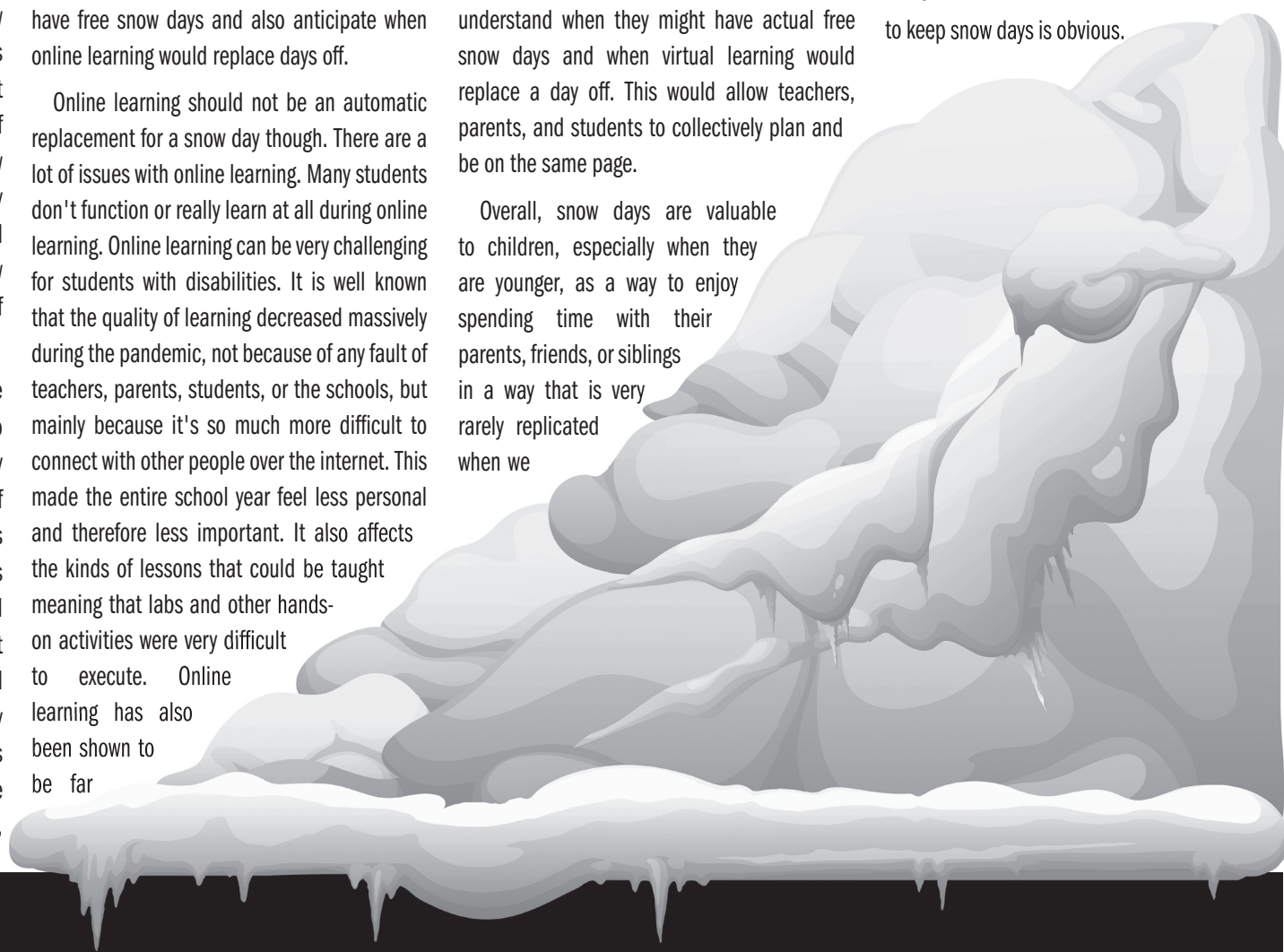
Online learning should not be an automatic replacement for a snow day though. There are a lot of issues with online learning. Many students don't function or really learn at all during online learning. Online learning can be very challenging for students with disabilities. It is well known that the quality of learning decreased massively during the pandemic, not because of any fault of teachers, parents, students, or the schools, but mainly because it's so much more difficult to connect with other people over the internet. This made the entire school year feel less personal and therefore less important. It also affects the kinds of lessons that could be taught meaning that labs and other hands-on activities were very difficult to execute. Online learning has also been shown to be far

less productive for younger students and may put more strain on parents who would need to attempt to wrangle their kids into sitting in front of a screen and doing school work while there is snow outside. Many students would see an extra day outside of school as a free day and ditch the online lessons since they know it is only one day.

Yet, there is a practical side to online snow days. If it is a particularly snowy winter, the school can't just grant snow day after snow day off. If they do, days of learning would have to be added to the school calendar, which is an even bigger scheduling nightmare for kids, parents, and teachers. So, a clear limit should be communicated to kids and parents so they understand when they might have actual free snow days and when virtual learning would replace a day off. This would allow teachers, parents, and students to collectively plan and be on the same page.

Overall, snow days are valuable to children, especially when they are younger, as a way to enjoy spending time with their parents, friends, or siblings in a way that is very rarely replicated when we

get older. The rush of unexpected joy that comes with the announcement that the next morning will be spent in bed followed by sledding instead of at school or staring at a computer while on zoom is something that I feel is unfair to take from kids. While yes, interrupting the school flow and schedule can be inconvenient, a day or two off of school would not hurt the school or students in any significant way. If it were to go past that, online learning may need to be implemented just to make sure students don't fall too far behind, but as it won't hurt to give kids just a little extra time off, I think the choice to keep snow days is obvious.



FALL ELEMENTARY NEWS

BY KYLIE KUHR

As the 2024-2025 school year begins, the elementary students have been up to some fun and exciting things. First, we welcome the PreK 3! PreK 3 students had their first mystery reader with June's Nana coming in to share some fun stories! The Pre K3 class had an incredible time making turkeys and Thanksgiving pictures for their families. Currently, they are learning how to take turns and play in their building centers. For the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving the PreK 4 had their math and literacy centers transformed into all things turkey. The students engaged in tons of different activities that required them to

work together, problem solve, and think critically. In math, PreK 4 had a great time identifying and matching numbers in print and on dice to add feathers to their turkeys. For literacy, the students used Thanksgiving vocabulary words to break into syllables and spelled them with magnetic letters. Lastly, the students made turkeys by adding matching letter feathers and letter sound feathers to alphabet turkeys.

In the first grade, the students have been learning about the sun, the moon, and the stars. The students have been very engaged and excited to learn about the phases of the moon

and how the moon reflects the sun. They even got to use oreos to make models of the moon's phases. Yum!

Lastly, the fourth grade has been working to finalize their big unit before Thanksgiving break. In ELA, the students have been working very hard on their poetry unit. The final project is making their own poem on what inspires them and presenting them to the class to show off their hard work. These poems will be hanging outside of the fourth grade classroom for those who would like to take a look. In math, the students are starting a new topic, which is

multiplying double digit numbers and single digit by four-digit numbers. The students are tirelessly working on perfecting their basic math facts. In science, the students have been working on characteristics of animals, plants, and humans and what structures allow them to perceive the world around them. The students completed a final task by making their own mythical creature with specific structures and functions to survive.

So far the elementary students have had a great start, we are excited to see what will come next in the Elementary classes!

We would love to hear from you!
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THE INLET is a publication by Shelter Island High School Journalism participants with the support of Dr. Brian Doelger and the Board of Education.

COACH MUNDY ON COACHING BASKETBALL, SPORTSMANSHIP, AND HARD WORK

BY RYAN SANWALD

Coach Zach Mundy was once a player in the gym where he now coaches. It was his father (and former coach) who sparked his interest in basketball initially. Coach (Zach) Mundy saw how much his father enjoyed coaching and even when he was young he could see coaching in his own future. His primary goals as a coach are to “learn more” and “most importantly to have fun.” Yet, discipline and hard work is also at the core

of his coaching philosophy. “There’s a time to be serious and a time to have fun,” he tries to teach his players.

One of the most important things for Coach Mundy is sportsmanship. “Every athlete should have good sportsmanship,” he says. He further explains, “You are allowed to get mad, but that doesn’t mean you have an excuse to be a bad teammate.” When it comes to player conflicts, Coach Mundy

relies on his team captains to step up and handle them. If the captains need support, he is there, and will step in. Other keys to a successful player, in Coach Mundy’s opinion, are to be motivated and disciplined. He says discipline is “step one.” Coach Mundy uses his own personal discipline when it comes to planning successful game play. He watches hours and hours of film of opponents and tries to figure out what they do and how they

do it. Coach Mundy also watches college, professional, and other high school ball to sharpen his coaching skill set. He uses everything he learns to prepare his team for each opponent. It is all a part of why coaching is “fun” according to Coach Mundy. The season is just kicking off, but the team is looking promising and is motivated to bring home some wins under Coach Mundy’s direction.

WINTER TRACK

BY ELI GREEN

Runners right off of the cross country season are now running their favorite events in this winter season on the track. The boys team is still small with three young athletes, Henry Springer, Eli Green, and Nathaniel Overstreet, The girls team has four athletes: Lily Potter and Danielle Rasmussen coming

right from cross country, Makayla Cronin joining the roster, and returning track athlete Lauren Gibbs. The boys will be running sprints as short as the 300 and distances as far as the mile. The girls will be running sprints and Lily Potter plans to throw the shot put. Henry Springer has one overarching

goal for his season: “To be as fast as I can!” Lily Potter weighed in and said, “I’d like to throw the shot put further than 20 ft.” Nathaniel Overstreet wants to, “Do my best, and hopefully show improvement every meet.” Both teams stated that they want to see consistent improvement. The teams

are optimistic, and show great potential for the upcoming season. We wish them luck, and hope that they meet their goals! Check out the schedule and plan to come out to support these small, but mighty teams!

BASKETBALL AND CHEERLEADING UNDERWAY AT SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL

BY MAE BRIGHAM

CHEERLEADING

Shelter Island's cheerleading squad is back and better than ever this winter season. The squad is coached by fourth grade teacher Ms. Adrienne Pitch, as it's her third year coaching. Cheerleaders will cheer at all girls varsity, boys JV basketball, and varsity home basketball games. Though they have had a smaller roster in the past, they have an expanded roster this year with more athletes ready for this season. The team is 9 players strong. Returning cheerleaders include seniors Johanna Kaasik and Dariana Duran Alvarado, junior Mae Brigham, and sophomores Sadie Green Clark and Rosie Hanley. Our new additions this year are sophomore Kyra Sciacchitano and freshman Lydia Brigham and Kylie Kuhr Leonard.

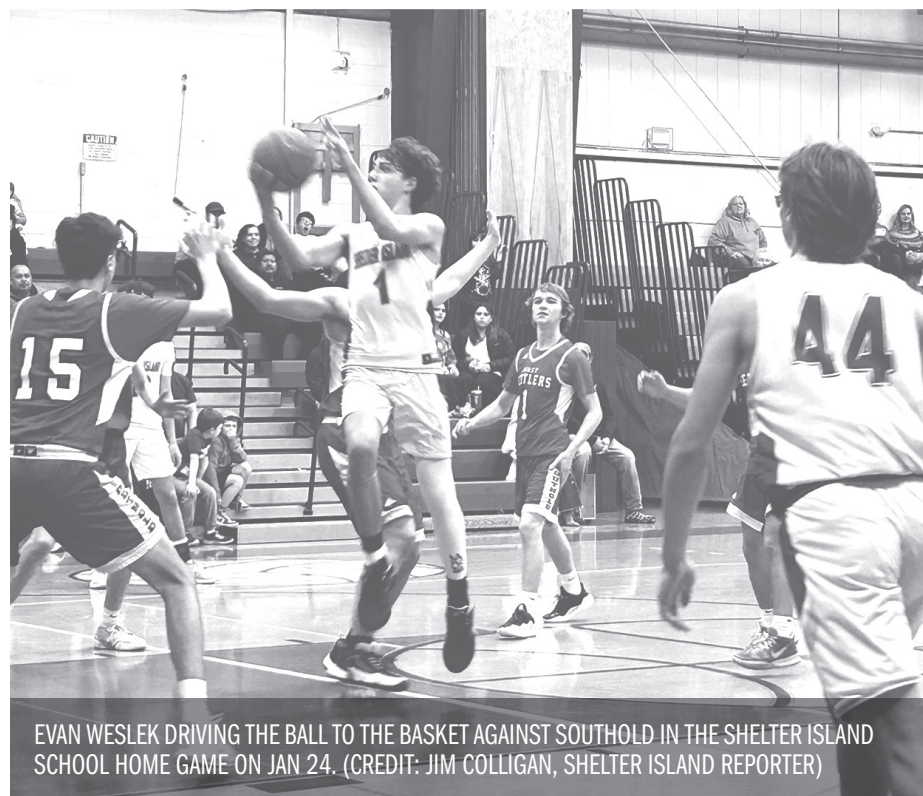
I chatted with third-year coach Coach Pitch asking her what her goals for the season are for the squad. She said, “My hopes for this season is that it will be our best yet, full of confidence, laughter, and moments we'll always remember. We will do our very best to lift each other up, celebrate our strengths, enjoy every cheer, and embrace our challenges that we may face. Here's to growing together as a team and having a season we'll never forget! Go Big Blue!!”. Returning captain Johanna Kaasik also said, “As captain I’m super excited to return this season especially with seeing new girls join. I hope to have our best season yet! ”. They will be in attendance at all home games starting Dec. 4. Join them in cheering on the boys and girls basketball teams as they tackle the

2024/2025 season. See you at the home games!

VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

It is official that the 2024-2025 varsity boys basketball season has begun. There is no JV team this season so all boys will play as one team. Prior to their preseason, the team practiced, but official practices started on Nov. 18. Shelter Island's varsity basketball team is coached by Michael Mundy for the fourth year running and assisted by Coach Matt Dunning. The varsity team, which has 15 players, has 18 total games, 9 of which are home games, and one non-league tournament. The team includes senior Harrison Weslek, juniors Harrison Clark, Daniel Hernandez Rivera, Sebastian Martinez Majdis, Byron Rodas Vasquez, sophomores Evan Weslek, Kaden Gibbs, Cayman Morehead, Jackson Rohrer, Abraham Roig, and freshmen Ryan Sandwald, and Liam Sobejana.

The boys first game is at home on Dec. 4 at 5 p.m. against Smithtown Christian. I spoke with Coach Mundy and asked him what his goals for the season are for the team. Mundy and Dunning commented, “We are excited as we start a brand new chapter of Shelter Island Basketball. We believe we are in the best position to compete in our 4 years leading the Islanders. The boys put in a lot of work during the off season and are ready to put on a display in front of the Shelter Island faithful.” Captain Harrison Weslek added, “We’ve got a great group of guys, I’ve been



EVAN WESLEK DRIVING THE BALL TO THE BASKET AGAINST SOUTHOLD IN THE SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL HOME GAME ON JAN 24. (CREDIT: JIM COLLIGAN, SHELTER ISLAND REPORTER)

looking forward to this season for a while now. I can’t wait to play some competitive basketball”. We hope to see you at the games!

JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

Shelter Island Girls JV Basketball season has also begun. This team rose from the ashes after Covid when they did not have enough players for a girls team. The team is coached by Erin Mulrain. The team will play 12 games total, 7 home, and 4 away. The team has 9 players and the roster consists of freshmen Alexis Bartilucci, Makayla Cronin, Natalie Mamisashvili, Lily Potter, Danielle Rasmussen, Maeve Springer, Juniors Lili Kuhr

and Keili Osorio Lopez, and senior Dariana Duran Alvarado The girls first game is a home match against Our Savior New American School on Dec. 3 at 5:45 p.m.

I asked Coach Mulrain what the team's hopes were for this season. She said, “This season is a fresh start for our program with only one returning player. It is up to us to put in the work and make it count. Our focus is on getting better every day and building something that we can all be proud of. I hope to foster a love for basketball in all of my athletes. Go Islanders!” Make sure to show up and show your support for the lady Islanders from the stands!

STONY BROOK COLLEGE VISIT

BY ROSIE HANLEY

On October 29th, Shelter Island juniors and seniors took a full day trip to visit Stony Brook University here on Long Island. While pretty much all of the students who attended have been looking at and thinking about colleges for a while now, some students had never been on a proper college tour. When asked what she thought about the experience,

Lauren Gibbs, a junior who attended the trip said, "The tour flowed very well." She expressed that the three tour guides were able to and properly learn about all of the aspects of Stony Brook that were highlighted throughout the day.

Some of the main things that students

took away from the tour was the extensive cafeteria, exclusive honors program, and large number of clubs Stony Brook offers. Some of these offerings may sound trivial to anyone who may have grown up in a larger high school or even just a larger town, however it makes sense that the incredible variety that was shown to Shelter Island

students would seem very tempting after growing up on our small island. Overall, students had very positive opinions about the tour and many, who before the tour claimed to be generally uninterested in Stony Brook, are now seriously considering it and seem to have a better sense of the kind of college they would want to attend.

DISNEY WORLD 2024

BY ELI GREEN

Shelter Island 7th and 8th graders had the good fortune to travel to Disney World in Florida in late October. Their Disney itinerary was packed with fun and learning from sun up to sun down. Students experienced new rides, new foods, and a trip which bonded their class in new ways.

After speaking with trip attendees, Disney's roller coasters were clearly top ranked as far as the ride offerings went. The Rock 'n Roller coaster, Expedition Everest, and Space Mountain topped the list. When it came to the favorite park of the trip, students had different feelings. Some enjoyed Hollywood Studios the most, for others it was Epcot, and many enjoyed the classic Magic Kingdom the very best.

The trip was also a new experience for

students, as it was the first time 7th & 8th grades traveled together. Mrs. Gulluscio reflects, "It was different because it was the first year of taking the 7th and 8th grade, and because they were younger there was a sense of wonder, and innocence." This year the students also had a bilingual guide, which was the first time ever in the history of the trip. This helped during lessons, as he could speak to the Spanish speaking students and communicate with them about how things work at Disney.

Mrs. Gulluscio plans for future Disney trips to be every other year and bring both 7th and 8th grades together, since this year was such a success. Middle school students greatly appreciated the opportunity to go on the trip and experience fun and learning in such an exciting setting.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MRS. GULLUSCIO
7TH AND 8TH GRADERS GET READY TO ENJOY DISNEY'S ANIMAL KINGDOM.

SHELTER ISLAND TAKES A TRIP TO A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

BY JOHANNA KAASIK

On November 15, the juniors and seniors headed to Bay Street Theater to experience a performance of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. This timeless play, written by Tennessee Williams in 1948, is known for its powerful characters and emotional depth. The actor's performance truly brought the play to life, portraying the characters of Blanche DuBois, a fragile, mysterious woman from a southern plantation who seeks refuge living with her sister Stella and Stella's husband Stanley in their New Orleans apartment. As Blanche struggles to adapt to her new surroundings, tensions rise between her and Stanley. As the story unfolds, themes of identity, desire, and conflict are explored, creating a gripping portrait of human vulnerability.

The gripping storyline and the play's fast pace quickly drew students in. Senior Betzaida Campos recounts her experience, saying, "I didn't know what to expect. I think that it did a great job encapsulating

a toxic relationship dynamic that still holds relevance in today's society." Other students were similarly impressed with the play's ability to hold relevance 77 years after its writing. English teacher Mrs. Treharne remarks, "I was really pleased to bring students to *A Streetcar Named Desire* since we do not teach it every year any longer. I think it is a classic and really edgy production and was very proud that the students were so mature and insightful in their reaction to it. I think students really understood how Stanley pushed Blanche over the edge." Senior Nathan Cronin, an actor himself, admired the stage configuration. He explains, "I think that it was very well done, especially the set. It was very impressive for such a small stage. The actors made great use of it." After the play concluded, actors returned to the stage for a Q&A panel, allowing students to learn more about the process of preparing for the show.

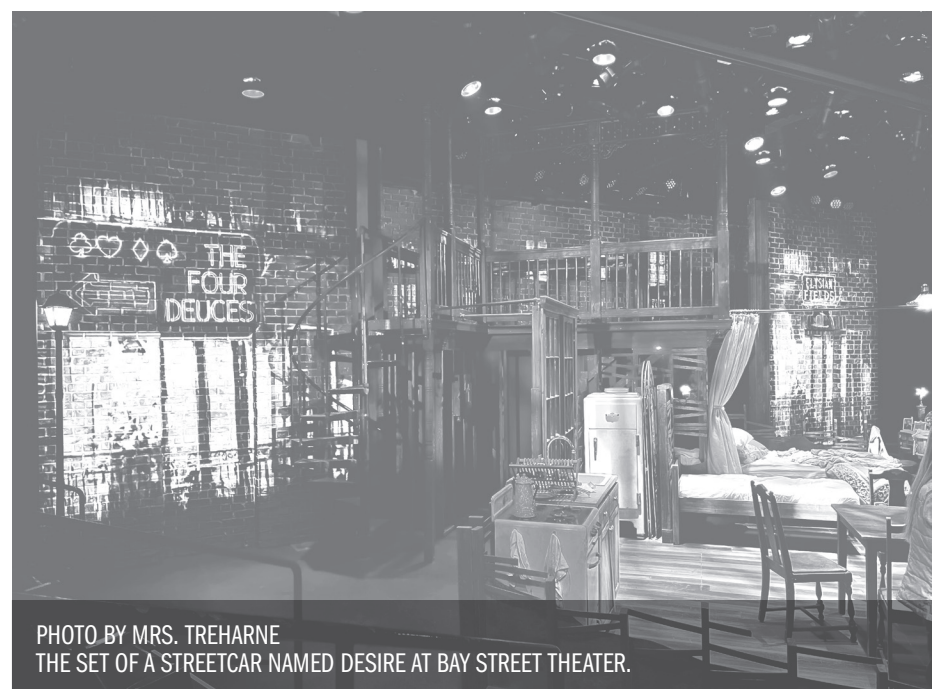


PHOTO BY MRS. TREHARNE
THE SET OF A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE AT BAY STREET THEATER.

Ultimately, this trip offered students more than just a break from the classroom. Seeing *A Streetcar Named Desire* provided the chance to experience a timeless piece of literature, while watching the craft of playmaking come to life. It was a unique

experience that students and teachers were grateful for and hope to have more of in the future. We appreciate Bay Street Theater's Literature Live programming for making our trip to the play possible.

WINTER HUNTING: TIPS FROM STUDENT HUNTERS

BY RYAN SANWALD

With the winter hunting season already in play, I wanted to share some of my favorite tips and tricks for a successful season. Check out my top five pointers, as well as fellow student Harry Clark’s insightful tips to learn more about our essential skills you need this season if you are on the hunt.

MY TIPS:

My first and most important tip I can give is: be patient. Being patient and not rushing your opportunities is key; you might not get another, so it is important to make sure you do everything right. When you do not take your time, it causes you to make mistakes you normally wouldn’t make. The next tip is regarding safety. When you are hunting, you should always be safe because you will be carrying some sort of weapon. Know your weapon safety protocols and follow them to keep yourself and others safe. You should also have the proper safety equipment for your tree stand so you don’t fall. Another important tip to know is to dress warm. Clothing is a major concern because of the cold harsh weather conditions in winter and fall. Dressing warm is one of the best things you can do to be more comfortable when you hunt. I can promise you will regret it when you are up in a tree freezing because you didn’t dress properly. My second to last tip is to be quiet. In the woods it can be hard to stay quiet depending on the ground and leaves. Walking on your heels can prevent loud noise while you are walking. Also, avoiding leaves

and sticks while you walk can minimize your noise. My final and last tip is to be prepared. Being prepared is a key essential to hunting. If you are not prepared before you head out, you may forget things you need and it could make you have to leave the stand early. Make sure you have all your clothing and gear in one spot so you won’t lose it or forget it.

HARRY’S TIPS:

Harry Clark’s number one tip for hunting is also to be patient. He says, “When you put in the time and effort, it pays off.” Harry hunts with a compound bow most of hunting season, but when it hits gun season he isn’t afraid to pull that trigger either. He hunts only for Whitetail deer on the island. Mainly he sits in his tree stand and waits for them to walk under him for a good still shot. But when he gets the chance, he will always do a deer drive to mix it up. (Deer drives normally require a minimum of four people and their purpose is to make the deer move towards the shooter by walking through the woods and attempting to scare them towards the shooter.) Harry also suggests wearing lots of warm clothing because it can get cold fast when you are sitting still up high. He likes to be hidden, so he also wears a lot of camouflage to blend in with his surroundings. When trying to find the best spot, he says to look for life in the vegetation and fresh signs of deer tracks, rubs, and scrapes. The wind and weather are also incredibly important to Harry because it can affect your hunt if the



PHOTO BY NICK GROSS
RYAN SANWALD WITH A BUCK HE GOT THIS SEASON.

deer knows where you are. Sometimes if the wind is not in your favor, it will spook all the deer from your area. If it is too hot, the deer might not be moving, that is something else to keep in mind. Harry prefers to hunt with

others rather than alone. He says it is nice to have someone to talk to and to share what they see in the stand. As for preferred hunting spots...Harry has them, but they are his and his alone. He isn’t telling, so go find your own.

HEALTHY HOLIDAY RECIPES

BY JOHANNA KAASIKWW

We all deserve a little sweet treat during the holidays, but it can sometimes be challenging to keep ourselves in moderation. Studies have shown that increased refined sugar consumption can increase the risk of developing conditions, including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and even cognitive decline. Simple ingredient swaps can keep the holiday fun going without the worry. Here are 3 simple recipes without refined sugars to try out this holiday season!

Oat Brownies

INGREDIENTS:	INSTRUCTIONS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 cup rolled oats (blended into flour)1/2 cup almond butter or peanut butter1/4 cup maple syrup or honey1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder1/4 cup dark chocolate chips (optional)1 large egg1/2 teaspoon baking soda1/2 teaspoon vanilla extractA pinch of salt	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C) and line a small baking pan with parchment paper.In a bowl, combine oat flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt.In a separate bowl, mix almond butter, maple syrup, egg, and vanilla until smooth.Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and mix until well combined.Fold in dark chocolate chips if desired.Pour the batter into the baking pan and smooth it out.Bake for 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.Let cool before cutting into squares.

Almond Flour Cookies

INGREDIENTS:	INSTRUCTIONS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 cup almond flour1 cup rolled oats1/4 cup coconut oil, melted1/4 cup maple syrup1/2 teaspoon baking soda1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract1/2 cup dark chocolate chips or dried cranberriesA pinch of salt	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C) and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.In a large bowl, mix almond flour, oats, baking soda, and salt.Add melted coconut oil, maple syrup, and vanilla extract, stirring until a dough forms.Fold in chocolate chips or cranberries.Scoop tablespoon-sized balls onto the baking sheet and flatten slightly.Bake for 10-12 minutes until edges are golden.Cool on the baking sheet for a few minutes, then transfer to a wire rack.

Berry Crumble

FILLING:	TOPPING:	INSTRUCTIONS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">3 cups mixed berries (fresh or frozen, such as blueberries, strawberries, blackberries, and raspberries)1 tablespoon maple syrup or honey1 tablespoon lemon juice1 tablespoon arrowroot powder or cornstarch (to thicken)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 cup rolled oats1/2 cup almond flour1/4 cup chopped nuts (such as almonds or pecans)1/4 cup coconut oil or melted butter2 tablespoons maple syrup or honey1/2 teaspoon cinnamonA pinch of salt	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C).In a bowl, combine the berries, maple syrup, lemon juice, and arrowroot powder. Mix well, then pour the berry mixture into a baking dish.In a separate bowl, mix the oats, almond flour, chopped nuts, coconut oil, maple syrup, cinnamon, and salt until crumbly.Sprinkle the crumble topping evenly over the berry mixture.Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until the fruit is bubbling and the topping is golden.Let cool slightly and serve warm. Optionally, pair it with a scoop of Greek yogurt or a dollop of coconut whipped cream.

LOVE DECKS THE HALLS
BY LILY BRIGHAM

At Shelter Island School, it's rare that we have couples in such a small group of high school students. For most of us, we just know too much about each other to go there. Yet, when people do couple up it's very exciting, so I decided to get nosy and find out about our high school sweethearts.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSIE HANLEY
ROSIE AND ELLIOT ENJOYING THEIR SUMMER TOGETHER.

Rosie Hanley & Elliot Shack

Rosie and Elliot met for the first time when Elliot was in 8th grade and Rosie was in 7th. They really began getting to know each other around prom in May 2024 though, and since then they have been together. Rosie says she “loves that Elliot is a great listener and emotionally intelligent.” They both enjoy watching movies together or just hanging out and talking. Elliot appreciates Rosie’s “great personality, and that she's very passionate.” One of Rosie's favorite moments was when Elliot came to her house the night before school started and surprised her with flowers and a card. They've built a strong connection with each other, and perhaps the best is yet to come.



PHOTO BY LILY POTTER
LILY POTTER, AND HENRY SPRINGER ENJOYING HALLOWEEN TOGETHER IN THEIR COSTUMES.

Lily Potter & Henry Springer

Lily and Henry met properly while doing a craft at the library. During that craft they started becoming friends and they noticed they had a lot in common with each other like enjoying art, being the oldest of four siblings, playing sports, and much more. They have now been together for over seven months. When asked what they love most about each other Lily says, “how caring he is,” and Henry says, “she's very nice, and the first thing I noticed was her red hair.” Their favorite thing to do together is watch movies, which has become one of their go-to activities. They have a strong bond with each other which continues to grow.

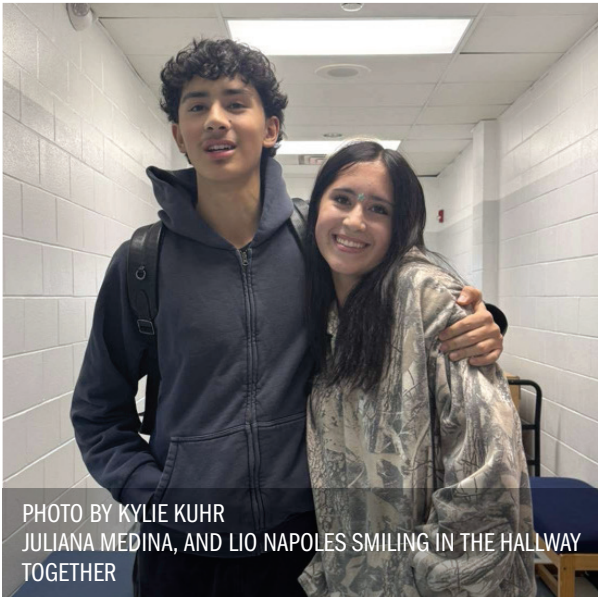


PHOTO BY KYLIE KUHR
JULIANA MEDINA, AND LIO NAPOLES SMILING IN THE HALLWAY TOGETHER

Juliana Medina & Lio Napoles:

Juliana and Lio have been together for over six months now. When asked how they met, Juliana says that it was through mutual friends that are in her class. After spending 4 years at Our Lady of the Hamptons, Juliana first met Lio a year after she joined Shelter Island School. It wasn't until they talked for a while that they started dating. They both agreed that their favorite thing to do is spend time watching movies together and also doing special things for each other. Two specific special things that Juliana said Lio has done for her is when he got her a gift basket for their six month anniversary. Lio also gave Juliana roses and a necklace to ask her to prom. (Take notes, guys.) Juliana says her favorite thing about Lio is “his unique personality, and that he is true to himself.” Lio says his favorite thing about Juliana is that “although she may seem shy, she knows what she wants done,” along with this he appreciates that “a majority of the things she does, she does with me in mind.” We wish the best for these two and their relationship, and that they continue to grow together.

GET TO KNOW EMILY LUPO
BY LILY BRIGHAM

Emily Lupo is an eighth-grader at Shelter Island School. Emily has a love for English, due to her teachers Mrs. Colligan and Ms. Sperling. After school hours, Emily usually enjoys relaxing, watching some YouTube videos, or watching her favorite Netflix films. Her favorites include the movie “Next Gen,” which she enjoys because she feels she can relate to the character May, and the show “Oddballs,” which she just finished. Although Emily doesn't have any pets, she plans on getting a pet fish to add to her family. Emily is a part of a big

family which includes her siblings Joseph, Jennifer, James, and Demetre; they all share lots of inside jokes together, which she enjoys. Music-wise, Emily's favorite song is “Hyper Reality Show” by Utsu-P. She describes herself as a mix of an introvert, and an extrovert, which is called an ambivert. Along with this, Emily says she is both a morning person, and a night person, because sometimes in the morning it's hard to keep her eyes open. Emily is a fun, kind friend and she enjoys being a student at Shelter Island School.



PHOTO: BY LILY BRIGHAM



COURTESY PHOTO

SUSAN CINCOTTA'S CRAZY CHRONICLES
BY JULIANA MEDINA

Shelter Island resident Susan Cincotta has lived on Shelter Island full time since 1985. Before moving here full time, she summered and visited on weekends and holidays. Once she made the move with her husband, Gregory Fehrm, they rented a house for 4 years where they created many unforgettable memories. In 1989, Susan and her husband moved into the

house in which she still resides. They built the home with the help of their friends and in it they raised two children. Today, Susan is also a grandmother to two grandchildren whom she loves and spoils endlessly. One thing to know about Susan is she can tell a story! Living on Shelter Island for so long, she has an entire arsenal. She agreed to share some

of her favorites with The Inlet.

One of Susan’s favorite memories starts on an early morning over 20 years ago while driving down a desolate street. As she drove up a small hill, she saw something large in the road. She slowed down and realized the enormous thing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

HOLIDAY CHARACTER LOOKALIKES

BY ARI WAIFE

Have you ever seen your favorite holiday characters in your friends? Maybe it is just the time of year, but I sure have. Look down below to see people around the halls who might just resemble some of our favorite holiday classic characters!



MAE BRIGHAM AS CINDY LOO WHO



JADEN FRIAS AS AN ELF



HENRY SPRINGER AS KEVIN



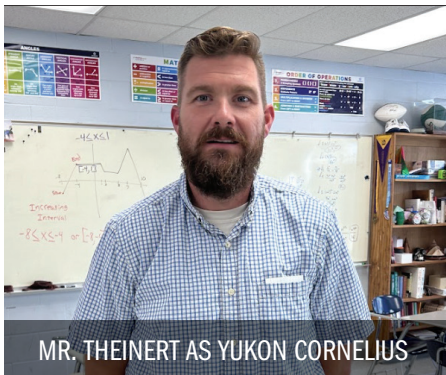
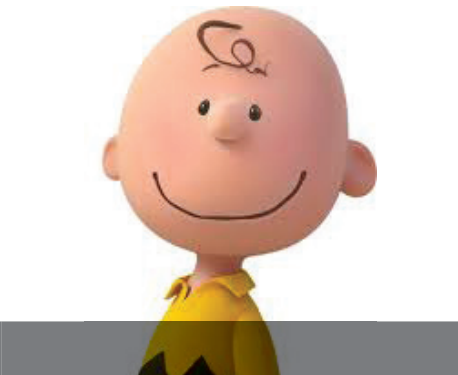
MR. CONRARDY AS ARTHUR CHRISTMAS



WILLIAM MARSHALL AS SANTA CLAUS



MR. BRENNAN AS CHARLIE BROWN



MR. THEINERT AS YUKON CORNELIUS



WHICH FICTIONAL CHARACTER DO YOU RELATE TO THE MOST?

BY MAKAYLA CRONIN

Have you ever found yourself watching a movie or tv show and realized you have a lot in common with a character on screen? I decided to find out who in our building has a character they feel like they have a lot in common with. Check out who they relate to below.



SADIE GREEN-CLARK: "Tinky Winky from Teletubbies because we both love purple."



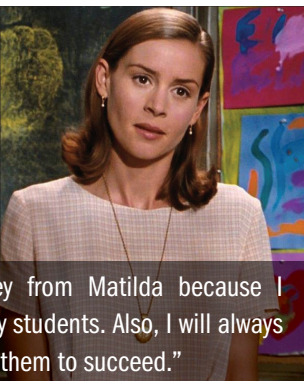
MRS. GOFF: "Chili from Bluey because we are both awesome moms."



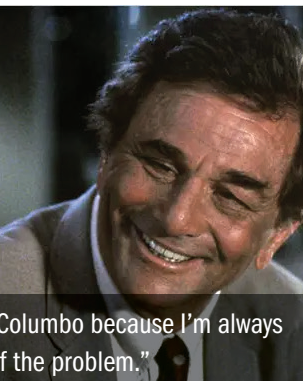
COCO BARTILUCCI: "Bluey, because she is hyper and I'm kind of hyper sometimes."



MRS. SEARS: "Miss Honey from Matilda because I believe in and care about my students. Also, I will always stand up for what's right for them to succeed."



MR. BRIGHAM: "I relate to Columbo because I'm always trying to get to the bottom of the problem."



NURSE MARY: "Stitch because he is funny and all over the place and doesn't make a lot of sense sometimes. I can relate to that."



JAYLA JONES: "Shaggy from Scooby Doo because I say 'like' a lot."



MR. CONRARDY: "Marty McFly from Back to the Future because we both have a sense of adventure."



THE BEST PLACE TO SHOP FOR THE HOLIDAYS?: THE SCHOOL'S VERY OWN HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE!

BY SADIE GREEN-CLARK

During the month of December, Shelter Island School's PTSA organizes the annual holiday boutique. This can't miss event is coming up soon! This is an opportunity for students and staff to do their shopping for the holidays. To stock the boutique, community members generously donate items that they no longer need or want, offering them to new homes.

These donations come pouring in every year and are patiently sorted by PTSA volunteers on to tables by category, for example one table could be all books, the other is all jewelry or clothes. When the boutique opens, it is set up so nicely it looks like a store set up in our lobby. Items are individually priced or students can pay \$5 for unlimited items in some categories. The \$5 unlimited deal let students get everyone on their list last year and left volunteers with less "leftovers" to put away.

One of the most special parts of the

holiday boutique is the "buddy system" shopping the school organizes. Each high school class is paired with a younger class to help the younger kids shop and manage their money. Shopping buddies provide support, guidance, and advice to find perfect gifts. At the same time, high school students gain responsibility and a new friend. All the gifts are lovingly wrapped by the PTSA "elf" volunteers after shopping is complete.

The holiday boutique is a great way to bring our school community together and is a very environmentally friendly way to shop. It is made possible by donations from our community and the commitment of the PTSA. This year, the PTSA is looking for high school volunteers to help with set up and take down. Those who participate get their hours labeled as community service. Be sure to visit the holiday boutique and thank all of the people who make it possible. Happy shopping!



REAL VS. ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREES: THE GREAT DEBATE

BY ALEXIS BARTILUCCI

During the holiday season most people get a Christmas tree. The question is: which one is better? Real or fake? Personally, I love a field grown Christmas tree that gives the whole authentic look and fills the house with the smell of the pine. Buying a real Christmas tree is supporting the people you bought it from, so technically you are helping someone out. Getting a Christmas tree is also a very important experience. Going to get one with your family, running around trying to find the

best one, feeling all the excitement, putting it on top of the car and blasting Christmas music on the way home, while checking to make sure the tree hasn't slid off of the roof is a whole Christmas experience in itself! When you are young it can be one of the highlights of Christmas, except for getting the presents. I asked my friend Lily Brigham what type of Christmas tree she has and she said, "I have a real Christmas tree because it smells good and it brings the real Christmas spirit."

Some fake Christmas trees don't even look like a tree, but if you find a really good Christmas tree, there are some positives about them. They won't be dead and shed all over your living room, you don't need to water it, you can reuse it, and some cost less money than a real one. Sophomore Natalie Mamisashvili has "a very realistic fake Christmas tree," she says, "I spent a long time looking for it and my family and I plan to use it for a very long time. It has lights that

have three different modes, so it's easy for us so we don't have to put up lights." I asked her if it was easy to put up and take down and she said, "There are only three parts and you just put them together or pull them apart and put them in a box." Freshman Lily Potter also has an artificial tree for the holidays and weighed in with Natalie, saying, "I have a fake Christmas tree with lights like Natalie, the best part about it is that it saves money."

IN DEFENSE OF HALLMARK MOVIES

BY LILY POTTER

It's the time of year when people start watching Hallmark holiday movies! Whether watching "Boyfriends of Christmas Past," "A Holiday in Harlem," or "Christmas Sail," Hallmark has some romantic predictability for everyone. Many say that Hallmark movies are cheesy or repeat the same plot in every movie. For example: a big city career girl begrudgingly needs to return home under (minimally) emergency circumstances,

only to fall in love with the local Christmas tree lot owner. Or, a single dad fumbling his way through his first solo Christmas enlists the help of his (single) neighbor to make holiday magic happen for his daughter...it does, in more ways than one. You get the idea.

Do Hallmark plots end happily? Yes, they do. Can you usually predict who is going to fall in love in the first five

minutes of the film? Obviously. Can you fall asleep or walk away and come back twenty minutes later without having lost the plot? Sure can. But, guess what? That is Hallmark movie magic. During the holidays, we need some warm, fuzzy, kind, predictable nostalgia. Friends, family, and love are at the heart of Hallmark movies and who doesn't want to escape all of the terrible news headlines these days and indulge in some of that?

Hallmark movies always have snow, someone realizing that they should follow their heart, and a much anticipated kiss in the last minute of the movie. If you can't get behind a Hallmark movie during the holidays, you are missing out on some simple, comforting holiday charm. So, make some cocoa (there will be some in the movie, so why not sip it with the cast), grab a blanket, and push play.

DIE HARD: A CHRISTMAS CLASSIC(?)

BY ALEXIS BARTILUCCI

Is Die Hard a Christmas movie? This, if you didn't know, is a hotly contested Christmas debate. Die Hard is an action packed movie that takes place during Christmas...but, does that mean it is a Christmas movie? I have heard so many different opinions about Die Hard that I thought it deserved some

analysis.

Die Hard is an action movie starring Bruce Willis. Does it have elves? Santa? Christmas songs? A heartwarming Christmas message? No. Does Bruce Willis climb through a chimney wearing a Santa hat? Do terrorists interrupt

a Christmas party, take hostages, and Willis has to somehow diffuse the situation? Yes. But, is this a Christmas movie? Come on. We can't put this alongside Elf and Home Alone, can we? Die Hard has no Christmas cheer...it has violence and action. That doesn't put me in the holiday spirit. The movie is also rated

R, so I wouldn't recommend it if you have small children around, it certainly isn't family friendly. It seems to me people are forcing Die Hard into a genre it doesn't fit into. If you want a break from Christmas movies, check Die Hard out, but don't fool yourself...it is by no means a Christmas classic.

WINTER TRAVELS
BY NATALIE MAMISASHVILI

This year, we are lucky enough to have a nice Thanksgiving break and long winter break soon after. I asked students and teachers where they are headed for break. Freshman Lexi Bartilucci is going to California and Florida for break. She is going there to visit some family, relax by the pool, explore new places, and shop. Junior Miranda Marcello is going to Arizona and Hawaii for the holidays. Junior Rosie Hanley is going to London, Ireland,

and Scotland for Thanksgiving break. She is going to tour colleges abroad. Band teacher Mrs. Farkas is heading to Florida to visit her parents. She is going to relax, swim, and go boating with her husband and two kids. Guidance counselor Mrs. Lang is going to Florida with her family. The winter break is a slow time where both her and her husband have breaks from work. Mrs. Lang is excited to sit on the beach, relax, and read some books. Freshman

Maeve Springer is going on a family trip to Pennsylvania to see family. Nurse Mary is going to Vermont to see family and go to fairs. Guidance counselor Mrs. Prior is going to Vermont as well, she is going skiing with her family. It will be her kids' first time skiing, so they are also going snow tubing, ice skating, and whatever else the ski resort has to offer. Freshman Liam Sobejana is going to Honduras for Christmas break. He likes tropical places

and plans on getting his scuba diving license, as he was wanting to for a while now. History teacher Mr. Miedma is going to Charleston for winter break, he is going to eat lots of food, walk around, and judge Southern society, so he says. 8th grader Bitsy Weslek is going to Florida to see her grandma with her mom and can't wait to be in the sunshine. We wish everyone traveling this holiday a safe voyage!

REINDEER GAMES RETURNS!
BY KYRA SCIACCHITANO

As the holidays creep closer, our school festivities are starting back up. Keep reading to hear about this year's new and improved Reindeer Games!

Reindeer Games is a holiday event usually hosted in the gym and it consists of

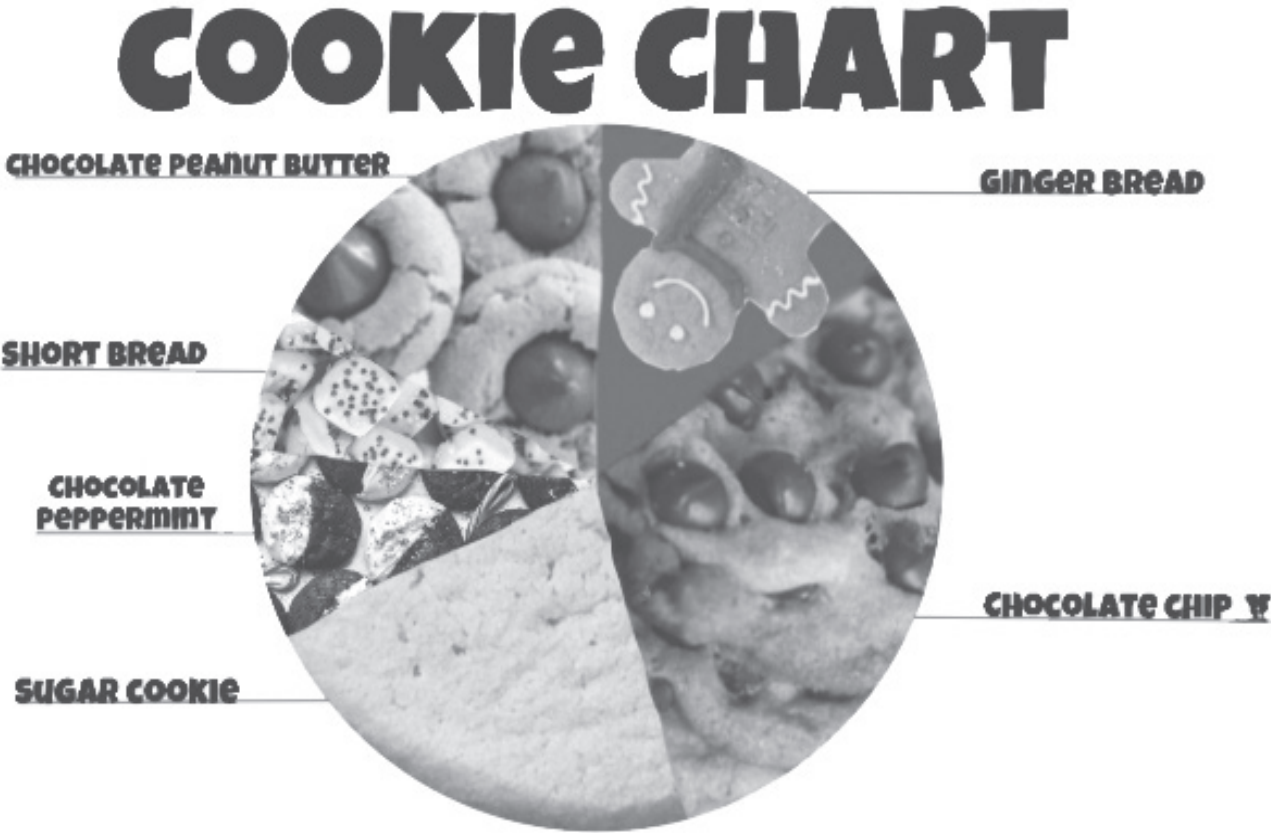
several different holiday themed activities in which classes compete against each other for the ultimate win. This year, Student Council has made some changes to spice up Reindeer Games. In terms of time, rather than the last 2 periods of the day, grades 6-12 will participate in

Reindeer Games from 6th-9th periods. This will include a joint lunch with teams during which students will have a gingerbread house contest to earn points towards their team score. An additional change is instead of being in the gym like previous years, we will be expanding to

the center of town and other rooms in the school, competing in multiple activities such as caroling, an escape room, and other activities from previous years. We cannot wait to see everyone enjoying the new activities during Reindeer Games this year, so get ready!

WHAT'S YOUR GO-TO HOLIDAY COOKIE?
BY LILY POTTER

The holiday season is here! With it, so are the holiday cookies! I went around the halls asking teachers, staff, and students what their favorite holiday cookies to indulge in this time of year are. Respondents chose from the following iconic holiday cookies: chocolate chip, peanut butter cookies, gingerbread, shortbread, chocolate peppermint, or sugar cookies.



SUSAN CINCOTTA'S CRAZY CHRONICLES
CONTINUED | BY JULIANA MEDINA

was taking up almost half her lane, but it was also moving very slowly. Susan explains, "I'd never seen anything like it, it was enormous! It had a spiky crust, 4 round feet and a tail! Its legs and feet were wider than my thighs and it seemed to have...a beak? I parked (the road was uninhabited) and I was able to observe it very closely, walking slowly across the road in front of my car. As it passed, I realized that it was the most enormous snapper turtle I'd ever seen...then or now." The reason this memory sticks out for Susan is because she is confident that a

moment like this one: an early morning, a deserted road, a snapping turtle the size of a dinosaur...really wouldn't happen anywhere but here on Shelter Island.

Susan has been in real estate for decades and has had a unique glimpse into the homes and lives of many on the island. One thing she has learned is, things on the island stay on the island. What does she mean by that? Well, long ago she had a little side table with a built-in lamp. The table had a chip in the corner and was well loved by her until she passed it on to someone else. Over the last 40

years, Susan has seen that table in other peoples homes and at more than one yard sale, always with the telltale chip. She has come to the conclusion that nothing leaves this island, it just moves around, probably unseen until you look closely and realize it's the same thing just moving round and round and finding new homes. She thinks that eventually everything finds its way to the goodie pile where it then starts a new life. "Come to think about it," she adds, "maybe that's where I found that side table in the first place."

These stories are just a few of the many

Shelter Island stories that Susan has to tell. Her life on Shelter Island has given her many once in a lifetime opportunities and experiences that she is very grateful for. Looking back on these stories, she realizes what a big impact Shelter Island has on the people who call Shelter Island their home. She loves the community that has been built within Shelter Island and is excited to see what the future on Shelter Island holds for her and her beloved extended family.

A DAY IN THE LIFE: CHRISTMAS DAY EDITION
BY JULIANA MEDINA

Everybody has different traditions during the holiday season. I was curious what Christmas day looks like in the households of other Shelter Island students, so I chose three at random to find out.

Sophomore Abraham Roig was very passionate when asked about his family Christmas traditions. His Christmas celebration starts off on Christmas Eve since he stays up until 1am in order to see if Santa has come to deliver presents and eat cookies. During this time he also likes to go through his family's gifts and usually decides to steal one or two. (Shouldn't this put him on the naughty list?) Then, he grabs a few hours of sleep before waking up early Christmas morning. Abraham wakes his mom up and gets to work opening his gifts. Once the gifts are opened, he eats Christmas breakfast which is traditionally a nice big stack of pancakes. Afterwards, he spends time with his family, including his mom, grandmother, aunt, and cousin. Abraham is

very excited for this upcoming holiday.

Sophomore Sadie Green-Clark's Christmas is a bit out of the ordinary; this is due to her huge family with very unique traditions. Her Christmas traditions usually start on Christmas Eve since she is not able to see the majority of her mom's side of the family on Christmas day. On Christmas Eve, Sadie heads over to her Aunt Laura's house where she usually opens some presents which always includes pajamas to wear for the upcoming night. She then plays trumpet with her grandmother, cousins, and siblings (which is around 8 people). Sadie usually spends the rest of her Christmas eve enjoying quality time with her family before she heads home for the night. On Christmas morning, Sadie is usually so ecstatic that she wakes up at 5am to start her Christmas festivities. Unfortunately, because she wakes up at 5am, Sadie is usually stuck waiting for a couple hours for her four siblings and parents to awaken. Once everyone is up, the family

opens their stockings first. After stockings, they move onto presents, and then end their morning with a nice breakfast. The last thing Sadie does is very unique, she heads over to her grandma's house to take part in an unusual tradition. Sadie and her family pick out shells and throw them into the air (like clay pigeons) before shooting them with guns. Sadie says that she has been doing this her entire life, and she doesn't know if she's too fond of it, but it is tradition so she's very used to it.

Lastly, senior Nathan Cronin shared his typical Christmas day with me. Nathan is a member of a pretty big family consisting of: four siblings, his two parents, and his two older brothers' significant others who join in their family festivities. Nathan is one of the middle siblings. Nathan starts his day waking up around 7am and has to wait for both his parents to wake up before his family can open presents. His Mom then insists on taking Christmas pictures before

everybody can open their presents. After opening presents, the Cronins spend a little time enjoying everything they received. They then move onto opening their stockings, which usually are just little trinkets that they can play with. Afterwards, his family spends some quality time messing around outside or inside, depending on the weather before having their annual Christmas dinner which consists of ham and lasagna that his mom makes every year. After their festive day, Nathan will usually go onto playing with the gifts that he got before heading to bed for the night.

Christmas is a special holiday and is celebrated by different families in different ways. It was great getting a peek into the Christmas days of some of my classmates. Whoever you spend Christmas with, I hope it is a special one.

WHAT'S ON YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST?
BY KYRA SCIACCHITANO

The holidays are right around the corner and as they creep up on the students and staff of Shelter Island are eager to share what they hope to see under the tree. Read all about their wish lists below:

HENRY SPRINGER (GRADE 10): "Shoes, art supplies, and a sketchbook."

MR. WILDSTEIN (MUSIC TEACHER): "Shoes, a mansion with infinity pool, and a trip to Hawaii."

BELKY DURRAN (PRE-K): "A doll."

FRANKIE DE LEON (PRE-K): "A rocket booster."

NURSE MARY (SCHOOL NURSE): "A ticket to Scotland, for Mr. Miedema to smile for one day, a 6 month sabbatical."

AVA FUNDORA (1ST GRADE): "Skincare, a phone, and an iPad."

JOSEPH MAURISIO (1ST GRADE): "iPhone, video games, and a TV."

MRS. FARKAS (BAND TEACHER): "A day to myself, snow on Christmas day, another water bottle."

MS. KOTULA (SPANISH TEACHER): "Money, a Maria's Kitchen gift card, and a rice

cooker."

QUINN SOBEJANA (11TH GRADE): "Money, a dog, and a king sized bed."

NATALIE FERNANDEZ (10TH GRADE): "A blanket, slippers, and a candle."

DANIEL'S FANTASTIC HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE
BY DANIEL HERNANDEZ

Christmas is probably most people's favorite holiday. Snow, Christmas music, festivities, and food, these are things everyone loves. Yet, more than all of those things people love getting gifts. Unfortunately for you, you may be reading this because you're doing the giving this year. (My condolences to your wallets.) However, don't worry. I've got you covered. Read on and find out how to win over all the people in your life with material items bought just for them.

1) WHAT TO GET FOR YOUR BOSS IF YOU LIKE THEM:

You want to stay on their good side right? But, let's be real, they make more money than you do, so let's keep it modest. Candles are a great gift to give your boss and there are so many scents you can never go wrong. Another gift could be a food they really like! Everybody loves snacks. That's all for your boss, they'll appreciate it and remember you made a little effort.

WHAT DO GET FOR YOUR BOSS IF YOU DON'T LIKE THEM: Put a bow around your two week notice. Just be sure you are going to be able to pay off the rest of your Christmas gifts first. (On second thought, give them the candle. Quit in the spring.)

2) YOUR TEENAGER:

Teenagers are tough to shop for, right? And, we love expensive things. So, don't avoid spending. Lean in. Get your teen a Porsche 911 gt3rs. If you're wondering if there are as many digits in price as there are letters in that name, yes, yes there are. Now, before you say: what are you crazy!? Just think about all the fun your kid will have in a German made sports car with a base price of \$223,000. Of course, if you want to be a Grinch about it, you can always just give your kid some clothes and socks, we always need those

too. Your kids won't complain and it will benefit them in the long run. But it's generic, so boring. I'm falling asleep writing this, just thinking about it. So, you know what's best. Go with the first option, hand them the keys and watch them brag to their friends..

3) YOUR PARENTS:

Your parents are ones that have been raised since you were a wee one. So wouldn't it be nice to give them something special? Well, I think so, that's why this gift is gonna be spectacular. Absolutely insane! Let's start with your mom. Mothers are amazing, being your physical guardian angel, and also your personal reminder of all things in the form of yelling or saying the same thing on repeat. So, to give them something special is a must, so you should get them the best gift money can buy. And, in my opinion, that is a 10 piece chicken nuggets from McDonalds. Even better than that, go ahead and add a McFlurry. Or, be so over the top and buy her jewelry or something flashy, but I can't guarantee she'll like opening some swarovski or anything luxury like a vacation to Paris better than those nugs. For your dad, get him some Snap-On tools and tell him to get to work. You could also give your dad a really nice chair after he is done working so that he can relax.

4) YOUR BESTIE FOR THE RESTIE

We all have a best friend. They are like your twin. Brother or sister from another mother. It's a bond that you cannot break. So, give them the best gift of all time. Give them money. The minimum amount is \$100, the maximum is the digits on your credit card, specifically the last 4 digits, the ccv, and the expiration date. Another gift you could give your friend is a brand new car, maybe a corvette, maybe give them a brand new gaming console or some shoes they have been wanting for a long time. They deserve it for putting up with you.

5) YOUR RELATIONSHIP/SITUATIONSHIP/CAN YOU JUST DATE THEM SHIP?

Relationships are amazing and Situationships are...a situation, because why are you not dating?? But aside from that, the special person in your life deserves a great gift for the holidays. If you don't know what to get your boyfriend (take note of that word, people in situationships) I have the best idea: actually decide where to eat when you're hungry. (This will avoid the all-too-familiar: "I don't care, what do you think?" that can go on forever.) Or, give your boyfriend concert tickets to his favorite artist, or give him that hoodie he has always wanted. Go crazy and buy him a

Hellcat. Girlfriends deserve good gifts too, so you should go all out. So, buy them everything on your girlfriend's wishlist. You could even get them the same gift you got your mom, only this time make it a happy meal...just thinking, what are they gonna do with such a huge box?! Buy your girlfriend that necklace or ring or earrings, too. Maybe they are wanting a nice vacation, so go ahead and buy those tickets to Miami (Ohio). After all, it's the same name and you'll save money. If they don't like that vacation idea, you could actually book them tickets to Florida, just know you'll go broke.

Now for you: the infamous Situationship. You guys in situationships are all masters of wasting time. So, the perfect gift you can get that "special" person is... an ultimatum! Stop playing, you silly geese, and do yourselves the favor and put a label on it, or find someone else who will. I mean, what better gift than that? Situationships are a sea of trouble that, dear reader, you have either seen or been in, so you know that an ultimatum is the best gift. Then, if they actually want to commit, you can get them real gifts, see "relationship" above.

6) SIBLINGS:

Let's keep this straightforward. A box of coal.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS: WHEN DO YOU PUT THEM UP AND TAKE THEM DOWN?
BY NATALIE MAMISASHVILI

The timing of holiday decorations can be controversial. Some people are strictly “past Thanksgiving” decorators, while others can’t wait and start in October. I asked teachers and students about when they decorate for the holidays and how long they leave their decorations up.

KYLIE KUHR (FRESHMAN): “I normally put them up the day after Thanksgiving. I take them down after January 30th” Kylie puts them up after Thanksgiving because it’s a family tradition. She takes them down after the 30th because that is when her birthday is and when she is ready to transition. She admits she likes to keep the Christmas cheer around as long as possible.

MAE BRIGHAM (JUNIOR): “My family puts our decorations up around November 30th.” Mae loves to get into the Christmas spirit. She takes her decorations down at the end

of January. This is because her family likes to wait until after the new year is underway and everything has settled down before they put away their decorations.

ELI GREEN (FRESHMAN): Eli and his family put their decorations up before Thanksgiving, around mid November. Eli wants to get into the joyous holiday season as soon as possible. Then, Eli doesn’t take his decorations down until around February. He wants to “let the Christmas spirit linger as long as I can.”

SADIE GREEN-CLARK (SOPHOMORE): Sadie decorates around mid November, but her tree goes up in mid December. “My decorations go up close to Thanksgiving because it is like the starting point of Christmas.” Her tree goes up later and gets taken down earlier for practical reasons: because of her wood stove, which often dries the tree out quickly.

MRS. TREHARNE (ENGLISH TEACHER): Mrs. Treharne usually puts her decorations up between the 2nd and 3rd week of November. She says, “I host Thanksgiving, so I put my decorations up so my guests can enjoy them and it feels festive.” Mrs. Treharne takes them down after New Year’s Day because she has already had them up for so long and is ready for a “clean slate.”

MAKAYLA CRONIN (FRESHMAN): The Cronin family’s decorations go up in early December because “my mom doesn’t want to see decorations until it’s time.” She puts the Christmas decor away around January 10th. Makayla says by then it is time for Christmas to be over and for new holidays to begin.

MRS. GOFF (MATH TEACHER): Mrs. Goff puts her decorations up after Thanksgiving. When she takes her Thanksgiving decorations

down to the basement, she brings her Christmas decorations right up. She takes her Christmas decorations down after New Year’s because her “husband makes her.”

JAYDEN FRIAS (8TH GRADE): Jayden’s family puts their decorations up after Halloween. “November is when my birthday is and I want the magical Christmas spirit around,” he explains. He takes his decorations down after New Year’s Day. He says, “we shouldn’t be celebrating a holiday that was last year.”

JULIANA MEDINA (SOPHOMORE): Juliana combines Thanksgiving and Christmas in her decorating tradition. When her family is done eating Thanksgiving dinner, out come the Christmas decorations. She says, “it has been a tradition since I was a little kid.” She puts away her decorations on January 2nd, and this has also been a tradition since she was young.

IT’S A HOLIDAY CONNECTIONS GAME!
BY MAE BRIGHAM

This holiday season I made my own Christmas-inspired version of the New York Times “Connections” word game. The objective of the game is to group four words that share a common theme together.

For example, categories can include things like:

PEN BRANDS: pilot, frindle, fountain, felt

TIME: christmas, lunch, last, past

Check out the QR code and have fun playing this holiday version!





Christmas Playlist

Want even more cozy vibes? Check out this playlist made by Miranda Marcello!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
BY MAE BRIGHAM



Picture courtesy of Mrs. Janine Mahoney
National Honor Society members Sadie Clark, Dariana Duran Alvarado, Juliana Medina, Lio Napoles, Abie Roig, Harrison Weslek, Evan Weslek, Jackson Rylott, Kaden Gibbs, Quinn Sobejana, El Schack and Rosie Hanley.

The Shelter Island National Honor Society and friends camped on the school's front lawn to raise \$1,185 for Habitat for Humanity. Habitat provides low-income families with a hand-up, not a handout, to help them buy a home. We can’t wait to see how we do in the following years. Thanks to everyone who contributed and showed up!

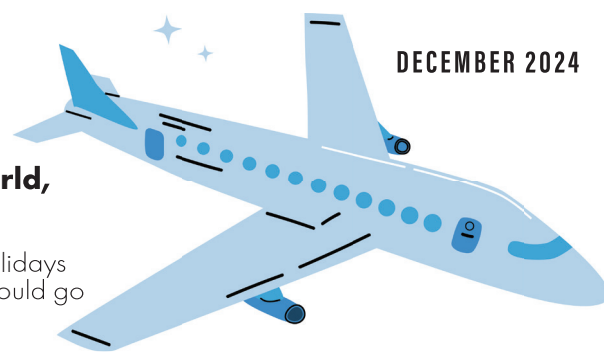


Around the Halls

BY KYLIE KUHR

If you could go on any vacation anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

For our second issue, I wanted to get a little creative, and since the holidays are coming around and everyone is traveling, I decided to ask if they could go anywhere for vacation, where they would go.



DECEMBER 2024



Aisley Davidson (8th grade): "The jungle, because I love animals."



Evan Weslek (Sophomore): "Amsterdam because it is cool."



Juliana Medina (Sophomore): "New Mexico to see my huge family."



Kyra Sciacchitano (Sophomore): "Italy because it is really pretty and I would like to try the food."



Lexi Bartilucci (Freshman): "Paris because I've always wanted to go there and I want the French food."



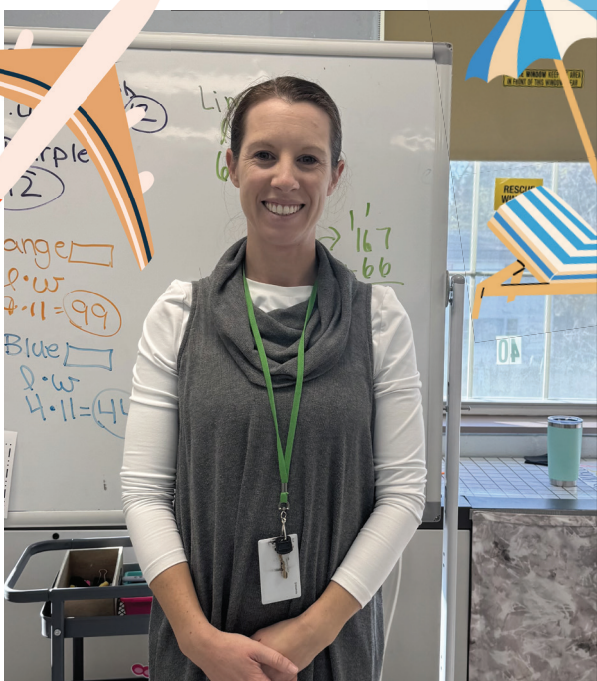
Lio Napoles (Junior): "Anywhere in Brazil because it is most definitely the most peaceful place in the world."



Mr. Theinert (Math teacher): "Patagonia, Chile because I love mountains and they have some epic ones."



Mrs. Farkas (Band Teacher): "I'd go back to Hawaii and not come back because it's surreal."



Mrs. Goff (Math Teacher): "I'd go to the Netherlands just because I read about their lifestyle and it is interesting."



Regina Kolmogorova (8th Grade): "Russia, because I miss my family."



Sadie Green-Clark (Sophomore): "Costa Rica because it is always warm."