



The

Anami Times

Winter 2017

Unami Middle School

Chalfont, PA

Central Bucks Model Congress

Elizabeth Zuerblis

On November 29th, eleven ninth grade students from Unami attended the Central Bucks Model Congress that was held at CB East. Model Congress is a simulation of the process of writing, amending, and voting on a bill to create a new law. At the 2017 Central Bucks Model Congress, participating students across the district in grades 9 through 12 were individually assigned representatives currently holding office in the House of Representatives. Students were required to write a formal bill that their Congress member may have written in their respective committee—Education and Work Force, Ways and Means, or Armed Forces—that would be presented during the event. During the event, students had the opportunity to share their bill with other participating students with representatives in the same committee. Students could amend, debate, and vote on the bills to pass the proposed law to the general assembly, consisting of all students taking part in the event on all three committees. Model Congress allows students to look in on the process of making a bill and passing it as a law as real members of Congress.



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9th Grade Art Field Trip

Sydney Kang

On Thursday, November 9th, the 9th grade Art Students in Unami took a field trip to Philadelphia to view modern art. Beginning their trip at the Kimmel Center, students walked throughout the city, looking at sculptures and many other types of art. Among these sculptures were an enormous clothespin, paintbrush, and life-sized game pieces (ex: dominos, chess pieces, etc.). For lunch, everyone went to Reading Terminal Market. The field trip concluded with all of the students going to the Philadelphia Craft Show. The artists at the art show were very skilled, and there was a variety of amazing art. The varieties included everything: wood carvings, clothing, jewelry, metalwork, ceramics, and glasswork.



One of these amazing works of art was the Internal Fire Glass by Scott Pernicka, which was a collection of large glass spheres that showed mini comets and planets on the inside. This, of course, was only one of the many amazing pieces of art found at the art show.

Unami Times

2017-2018

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Unami News

Chatting with a Cheerleader: Preparation for the Upcoming Pep Rally!

Ava Harvest

The first Unami Pep Rally of the 2017-2018 school year is fast approaching! The Unami cheerleaders have been preparing for this event since mid-September, and they're very excited to show off their skills. Eva Calabrese, a seventh-grade cheerleader, has described her experience in preparing for the rally by saying: "I have mixed feelings about the prep. It can sometimes be challenging due to working hard on our stunting and our moves, but it's also very fun. We get to hang out with a huge group of girls while we're doing it, so it makes the work easier. The girls all have a tight connection and bond; it's so easy to talk to any of them. We have our own little family in cheer, and I'm so happy to be a part of it." The competition team practices 2-3 days after school every week, and when preparing for the rally, the team practices their routine to get it perfect, in addition to practicing their competition routine. Coach Ashley is helping the girls get ready helping them stunt and work on their motions to get them clean. She also continues to challenge the girls by making them try new and interesting routines and stunts, to make sure that they are ready for whatever comes their way in a routine that they must perform. The cheer squad is ready to make all their hard work and effort worth it and to show their Unami pride! Thanks so much for all the diligence, girls! Also, don't forget to wear orange and black on the day of the rally to show off some school spirit!



7th Grade Field Trip: A Christmas Carol

Diya Hundiwala

On December 6th, the 7th grade went see the play "A Christmas Carol" at the Allentown Civic Theater. This play is adapted from the Charles Dickens novel of the same name, and is produced by William Sanders and Sharon Lee Glassman. It is returning to the Civic stage for its 28th year. The play is not just any ordinary play; it has an electric snow machine, fog machine and other special effects that all add to the charm of this classic story!

To prepare for watching the play, the Seventh Graders read the script and performed some scenes from it in class. They also read excerpts from the novel by Charles Dickens. While studying the play and the novel, the 7th graders on Team Gneiss recorded quotes and passages from the text that show how the Christmas spirit gets instilled in Scrooge. Using that evidence, the Team Gneiss 7th graders will compose a character analysis on Scrooge, who is the main character in the play and whose personality changes throughout the story.

On the day of the trip, the 7th graders left at 7:45 am, so students had to be on time that day to make sure they made the bus to the theater. After the 7th graders returned to school, they ate their lunch and discussed their impressions of the play, considering questions such as: *Who was your favorite character? How well did the props and costumes match the tone and time period?*. After lunch, students participated in Victorian Era themed activities. The whole day was dedicated to the play and activities related to it. It was a great experience!



Greek Integration Project!!

Melinda Wang and Paige Walsh

The 3rd week of November was a very important week for the 7th grade students and teachers! This week was called Greek Week! On both 7th grade teams, Gneiss and Granite, students created myths based on a blend of their core subjects: Social Studies, Reading, Writing, and Science. This was a very thrilling week for all of seventh grade!



Everyone was looking forward to applying what they learned about ancient Greek culture. For instance, after they were done with their projects they would present what they have created for their team. Their presentations were based off of a made-up myth. Students came up with interesting ways to show them to their teams. For example, some students created dramatic plays, raps, podcasts, stop motion videos, board games, and even more! Not only did they enjoy presenting their myths, but other students also had a fantastic time learning about them.

The activity ended with 7th grade students voting on their favorite top three groups that they saw earlier. Many 7th graders really enjoyed this experience because of the teamwork element. They got to work together with other students to create something spectacular, in only a week! The students, and even the teachers, wore togas/chitons for the entire presentation day! They created the chitons out of bed sheets and could also decorate their chitons to match their personality as the god or goddesses that they chose!



As you can see, students had loads of fun in Greek Week. Team Granite ended the week with a movie, joining together in the auditorium to watch Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief; while Team Gneiss participated in Greek-themed activities like building the acropolis and participating in a Greek marketplace. After all that fun, the top three favorite groups that received the most votes were awarded candy on a necklace. What an enjoyable way to incorporate most core subjects in one project!

Thanksgiving Gobblegrams

Elizabeth Zuerblis

The Unami Student Council organizes many fundraisers that benefit the school and the local community. Most recently, student council held a Thanksgiving fundraiser in which students had the chance to purchase a note giving a Thanksgiving greeting and some candy to a friend, a Gobblegram. With half of the proceeds being donated to a local food pantry, student council was able to help those in need receive a good meal on Thanksgiving who may have not gotten one otherwise. The school-wide participation in the fundraiser allowed for many families to receive these meals and have a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.



Be sure to keep an eye out for any upcoming student council fundraisers. Happy holidays, Unami!

Unami's Veteran's Day Assembly: Showing Gratitude

Katherine He

Our nation is known as the land of the free and the home of the brave. Every morning we pledge our allegiance to our flag and country, swearing to stand as one nation under God, indivisible, and with liberty and justice for all. We make up the United States of America, and we each have our freedoms and rights that allow us to live the lives we do. But we often forget about the people who sacrifice their lives and fight everyday for us and our privileges. Our amazing heroes: our veterans.

Veteran's Day is an official U.S. holiday that takes place on November 11th each year. To celebrate, our school had our Veteran's Day assembly on Friday, November 10. With our grade levels, we listened to and interacted with veterans who told us amazing stories of their experiences in the military. They explained why they chose to serve, and their roles in the military. They also answered many questions we had. Their inspiring presentation showed the importance of our veterans and the sacrifices they make everyday for our country. They deserve the highest of all honors for protecting our lives constantly, and this assembly surely reminded us of that. It is so important that we are aware of the selflessness



and courage our veterans have. try, some find themselves struggling to support themselves. There are about 58,000 homeless veterans, and they are 50% more likely to become homeless than other non-serving Americans. These are real-life superheroes risking their lives and their service is very appreciated.

If you have a veteran in your family or you know people who have served, show your appreciation by saying "Thank you." If we unite as a country, we can help our incredible veterans adjust back into their lives smoothly. After all, these are the people who volunteered for the sake of our safety and freedom. Let us allow our Veteran's day assembly at Unami to shine a light on the beauty of these heroes, and let it be a call to action to help those who helped us. So, thank you veterans for all you do!

and courage our veterans have.

There were about 20.4 million veterans in the American armed forces in 2016 according to data from the Department of Veterans Affairs. That is 20.4 million people who choose to risk their lives for our country. Veterans show tremendous benevolence and strength. Furthermore, the U.S. Army reported that the average enlistment age is 21 years old. These Americans decide that their role in life is protecting our lives and country, and that is the absolute purest representation of a good heart. It is truly incredible how brave these men and women are, and we should truly appreciate them.

After veterans come back from war and protecting our country, some find themselves struggling to support themselves. There are about 58,000 homeless veterans, and they are 50% more

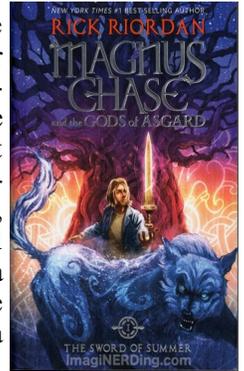


Reviews

Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard Review

Vibha Iyengar

With *Thor: Ragnarok* out, most fans of the Marvel universe at least know one of the Norse gods. However, if you're interested in knowing more, then the Magnus Chase series might be for you. For all fans of *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* (or any of Rick Riordan's other series), Magnus Chase is in the same format. It follows a homeless orphan in Boston who has a semi-decent life until an unfortunate accident with a river, a chatty sword, and a fire giant leaves him confused about his family and destiny in Hotel Valhalla, the place of warriors. As he makes friends with his floor-mates, learns the truth about his other friends, and attempts to delay the inevitable end of the world, Magnus Chase has to work hard to keep up with and learn about the world of Norse mythology and his own part in it. The series is often criticized for its political nods, but if you don't mind that, it's a great humor-filled series. With the third and final book out now, it's a great time to start reading the series. For anyone interested in the gods of Vikings, Magnus Chase is a great, fun way to learn a little more about them.



The Box With an X: The Xbox One X

Rishi Suresh

The Xbox One X is the world's most powerful console. Games play better on Xbox One X. With 40% more power than any other console, you'll experience truly immersive 4K gaming. The Xbox One X unleashes 6 teraflops of graphical processing power, making games perform better than they ever have. Maximize game performance with the speed of 12GB GDDR5 graphics memory, and see every frame with 326 GB/sec memory bandwidths. Lose yourself in worlds built for true 4K gaming, where action comes to life with 2160p frame buffers and 6 teraflops of graphical processing power. And experience premiere sound that puts you in the center of Spatial Audio. On the Xbox One X, you can watch Blu-ray movies in stunning 4K Ultra HD and stream 4K videos on Netflix, Amazon, and much more. Not only that, but you can stream and record game clips in 4K at a screaming-fast 60FPS. With this new console, you are now able to experience richer, more luminous colors in games like Forza Motorsport 7 and Crackdown 3. With a higher contrast ratio between lights and darks plus Wide Color Gamut, HDR technology is able to bring out the true visual depth of games. All of the games both look and play great on Xbox One X. Overall, the Xbox One X is looking great.



Thor: Ragnarok

Mehir Badlani

Thor: Ragnarok is an adventure, sci-fi, and comedy film released earlier this year on November 3, 2017. It features Thor in his adventure to stop Hela from destroying Asgard. It boasts a line-up of Thor, Loki, Doctor Strange, Hulk, Valkyrie, Korg, Odin, and Heimdall. The antagonists of the movie include the Grandmaster, the fire demon Surtur, and Hela. The movie begins with Thor fighting Surtur and then heading to Asgard. Things then start to get interesting. Thor gets Surtur's Head/Crown; he loses his hammer; he and Loki ignore each other; they get stuck on another planet; they fight hulk and so much more. The two main problems presented to Thor in the movie are that he must find a way to protect Asgard from Hela and find out who he is if he doesn't have his hammer. The movie received a 92% rating from Rotten Tomatoes. This is really good considering that Justice League got a 41%, had more superheroes, and had been anticipated for a long time.

Thor: Ragnarok has the perfect blend of plot, action, and comedy. It somehow manages to bring sad moments in the movie and provides depth to the plot in places. It has great CGI and special effects. The costumes and outfits of all the characters were well thought through and looked great. There was almost nothing bad about the movie. You might know that there are some extra powerful objects floating around the Marvel Universe through Doctor Strange to Avengers to Thor to Guardians of The Galaxy.

These objects are called the infinity stones. There is only one infinity stone remaining and it would have been really nice to see it in the movie, though at the end of the movie, you will get a major plot twist for the whole Marvel Universe which is infinity gem-related. There is not much one can say for such a good movie without spoilers. The movie is now available for pre-order and is expected to be available between the end of December to mid-February. Hopefully you enjoy it a lot!



Reviews

Coco!

Holly Mirales

Disney and Pixar's new movie, *Coco*, hit theaters this Thanksgiving, and I braved the flood of people to find out what all the hype was about. *Coco* follows Miguel Rivera, a twelve-year-old boy, and his quest to return to the land of the living. He stumbled into the land of the dead by accident, and seeks the blessing of his great-great-grandfather to get back. Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) and other parts of Mexican culture play a big role in the story. The movie itself is slow to start, but once the action picks up, the movie is amazing! *Coco* has a wonderful mix of heartwarming and funny moments. Each sad part has a funny joke as a counterpart, so the movie is a nice balance of having a message and being enjoyable. The animation in *Coco* is beautiful and the soundtrack is equally amazing. I would highly recommend *Coco*!



Justice League Review

Mehir Badlani and Samuel Kim



Justice League is a movie with a good lineup of characters, good special effects, and it travels to multiple places in the D.C. Universe. It came out on November 17, 2017 and featured Batman, Flash, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, Cyborg, and one more superhero you might have seen return in a trailer.

Part of what we liked about *Justice League* is that it had a fairly simple plot, clear problems, and, wait for it, English class terms: protagonists and a clear antagonist. All of the superheroes fight to save their world from being conquered by a being named Steppenwolf who has a magical ax and feeds on fear (that sounds familiar from Marvel). Most of the movie takes place in Gotham City and then in Chernobyl, the abandoned Russian power plant that had a nuclear meltdown. We see Batman has to deal with issues pertaining to working with a team; Flash has to deal with the issues he has with his dad being in jail as shown in the trailer; Aquaman has a hard time with his kingdom; and Cyborg cannot figure out where he stands because he thinks he is a monster because he is a machine. The movie has detailed sets, lots of work went into making it, and it also had lots of good CGI, but there was still a lot wrong with the movie.

SPOILERS AHEAD!!!! The movie was good, but personally we don't think it is worth buying or watching in the theater. Everything was so shallow: there was no depth, no plot twist, no change in character, and extra and unnecessary details which made the movie feel like it was dragging. In some places, it was dramatized too much and the movie producers forgot to add necessary things that were needed. In some places, the movie has the wrong color filter, making it hurt your eyes and not help to create a mood or atmosphere for what was going on. There was comedy in the movie, but it was forced; it did not quite fit in, and there was not enough of it. Another sad part was that Flash and Wonder Woman's powers were downplayed. In addition, Batman felt like an extra to the team which is not right since he formed the Justice League. He didn't get much of a chance to do anything like fighting the big bad guy, Steppenwolf. It would explain why it got a 41% rating on rotten tomatoes. Maybe you should watch the *Justice League* and see what you think about the movie. ENJOY!!

A Brand-New Addition to the Overwatch Team!

Grace Neumann

Overwatch, a first-person shooter video game, has a variety of heroes for selection. The game offers offense heroes, defense heroes, tank heroes, and support heroes to play as. Recently, the game has been in need of a new support hero, considering there were only five support heroes as opposed to six to eight offense, defense and tank heroes, so the people who work on the game decided that they would add a brand-new hero. Her name is Moria. She is an Irish geneticist who can heal, but can also do huge amounts of damage. The weapon that she mainly uses is her Biotic Grasp. This weapon uses biotic energy to help heal team-mates that are in need of healing. She can also use this weapon to damage enemies. One of Moria's abilities is Fade which causes her to teleport a short distance. This is helpful in gameplay when Moria has to get away from enemies or to the nearest health pack. Another one of her abilities is Biotic orb which lets Moria create an orb (for healing or damage) and release it towards her enemies. Lastly, her ultimate ability is Coalescence, which is a beam that can heal allies and cause damage to enemies. After Moria's release on November 16th, many have had mixed feelings about her. Some feel that her ultimate is underpowered and does not do as much damage as they hoped and some say that she is too much like Symmetra (another support hero). However, I think we can all agree that Moria was a wonderful addition to the *Overwatch* team!



Reviews

Stranger Things Season 2

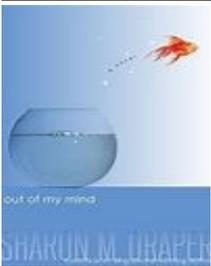
Marissa Periera and Sarah Hamer

Season 1 of *Stranger Things* left us on a cliff hanger. Eleven was gone and Will was still connected to the Upside Down. In the newest season entitled *Stranger Things 2*, we are introduced to the new characters Max (Sadie Sink) and her brother Billy (Dacre Montgomery). Max and the boys become friends quickly and she joins them on their adventures across Hawkins and the Upside Down. The new season also lets you see more into the lives of Dustin (Gaten Matarazzo), Lucas (Caleb McLaughlin), and Steve (Joe Keery) who were introduced last season. Season 2 gives more of a backstory to the Upside Down and explores Will's symptoms after experiencing the Upside Down. We are also introduced to a softer side of Steve and his interactions with the children, specifically Dustin. Netflix also released a show called *Beyond Stranger Things*, hosted by Jim Rash, where the writers of the show, Matt and Ross Duffer sit down in interviews with cast members.



Out Of My Mind By Sharon Draper

Chakrika Aluri



Melody is a smart, caring, and likeable girl. She has an outstanding memory that allows her to remember even the most minor details. She excels in school, getting good grades on every test and assignment. Except she's different. She has a disease called cerebral palsy, which keeps her from doing basic daily functions, such as walking, talking, and even simple things like picking up a spoon. And then, before 5th grade starts, her mom has the idea to enroll her in "normal school" (public school). Melody anticipates that starting at a "normal school" will be very challenging, knowing she has a condition. And at first, school is very difficult for her, as she expected. But then, when her school starts the inclusion program, which allows the children with disabilities to join in on the regular classes, she meets Rose, her first friend. Rose sticks with Melody through the ups and the downs. That is, until betrayal happens, and things fall apart. But will Melody be able to rebuild it all?

Arrow Review

Samuel Kim

You see a big black figure on the rooftops. He shoots an arrow toward you. You see the masked vigilante coming toward you. You wake up from the dream and feel relieved that it wasn't real. If you could guess, you dreamt about *The Arrow*. To all the *Arrow* fans out there, you might be jumping up and down from excitement. This TV show has a rating of 95/100. Its sixth season premiered 9:00 PM on the CW. The whole show is great, and in Season 5 there were major cliffhangers with burning questions waiting to be answered. **WARNING!!!! SPOILERS AHEAD FOR ALL THE SEASONS OF ARROW!!!!!!** *Arrow* is about a guy named Oliver Queen. He has been stranded on an island called Lian Yu for five years. Lian Yu is Chinese for purgatory. Oliver has returned to his home, Starling City, but he came home with one goal. He wanted to save his city from bad people; however, to do that he had to be someone else. He had to be something else. Oliver is secretly the Green Arrow. He is also the mayor of Starling City. Bad people have attempted to hurt the city like Malcom Merlyn, Slade Wilson, Ra's al Ghul and his League of Assassins, Damien Dahrk, Prometheus, Cayden James, and Black Siren. These people have hurt Oliver in some way and tried to destroy his city. Oliver has a crusade with him, so he is not alone in the battlefield fighting crime. Oliver wears a hood and a mask and uses a bow and arrow to save his city. He called himself the Hood, but as time goes on, his name becomes the Green Arrow. One of the members of Oliver's team is Felicity Smoak. She is the brains of Team Arrow and is a technician. She defuses bombs, hacks computers, etc. Another member is John Diggle. He used to be a bodyguard for Oliver until John learned secrets about the crime fighting. John fights villains with Oliver. His code name is the Spartan. Other members are Rene Ramirez, Dinah, and Curtis. All of them have special abilities. Rene's code name is Wild Dog and he uses firearms to make the city a better place, Dinah is a metahuman who has supersonic screams and her code name is the Black Canary, and Curtis is a technician too and has created a tool called T-spheres. They can fight and do useful things (which you are going to have to figure out if you watch *Arrow*). Curtis's code name is Mr. Terrific. All of them can save Star City from threats. However, this team had setbacks because of secrets and enemies. For example, in Season 5 Prometheus tortures Oliver to admit that he is a killer and he likes killing. Once Oliver admitted he disbanded his crusade because he is afraid he will get everyone hurt from Prometheus. In multiple seasons Oliver has kept secrets that almost tore up the team. Oliver is a great hero, though. He is the "god at archery" and can shoot anything with a bow and arrow. In the past, he has been defeating crime lords and gangsters from his city because he wanted to fix his father's wrongs from a book. It had a list of names of people that have done many bad things in Star City. Oliver would track them down and kill them, but he says before shooting the arrow, "YOU HAVE FAILED THIS CITY!" However, after his best friend died from the Undertaking performed by Malcom Merlyn, Oliver decided to never kill people again. (The killing caused many problems like the police always chasing after him, Prometheus being born because his father was killed by Oliver, etc.)



Season 6 is streaming now as I am writing. In this season, Oliver spends time with his son, William. He also tries to stop Black Siren. A lot has changed, and new friendships have been made. Also, Cayden James is the main villain with Black Siren working for him. I hope you watch *Arrow* and see amazing scenes that will get you amazed and addicted. So, after you read this, go home, jump on the couch, turn the TV on and watch on Thursdays at 9 PM to see one of the best TV shows of all time.

New Teachers

Teacher Talk: Senorita Barreiro

Mehir Badlani and Shreyas Ramkumar

Where are you from?

I'm from Bucks County. I studied at Tamanend and went to CB South.

How long have you been teaching?

This is my first year teaching.

What is your favorite language?

Of course, it is Spanish!

Is there anywhere you would like to visit?

Hmm... Uruguay

What is your dream job?

I am doing that job right now!

What is your favorite food?

This is going to be very specific. I like Bertucci's Chicken Piccata.

How do you like Unami?

"I love Unami, I'm helping out with Student Council, and all the students are nice to me!"

Do you like a certain period?

I love all my classes equally!

Do you have a hobby?

I like to read!

What's your favorite movie?

I like this movie called "The Longest Ride."

Where did you go to college?

I went to Penn State.

Why do you want to teach Spanish?

"My Dad's side of the family is from South America and I really enjoyed learning the culture and language, and I would like to share that experience with all the students at Unami."

Do you have a Favorite Superhero?

(Laughing) Iron Man



Unami Welcomes Mr. Meyers

Abby Palmieri

Many new teachers have joined our Unami family this year. Among those is Mr. Meyers, the new band director. In addition to teaching all band students in the school, he is also the director of our upcoming musical, Bye Bye Birdie.

He grew up fairly close—in Horsham, PA—and received his bachelors of music at Rowan University. As of now, he hopes to finish his master's degree in education sometime in 2018. He worked in Warminster for 7 years before coming to Unami. The reputation of Central Bucks drew him in, in hopes of growing even more as an educator. Mr. Meyers has his own musical history, beginning as young as fourth grade when he began to play the saxophone, which to this day is what he considers his main instrument. He was lucky enough to feel a real connection with music at this young age and soon decided that music and performance was what he wanted to do the rest of his life. Throughout his musical career, he has had some great opportunities to learn and perform. Many of those opportunities have been provided by his educators throughout the years. When he became a teacher, he hoped to be a positive and influential role model for his students like his educators were for him. As an arts teacher, you can bet he forms meaningful bonds with his students, and says one of the best aspects of his job is watching his students do well and feel confident about performing. He seems to have high expectations of our school, but so far, they have been met, as he explained when he described how welcoming the staff and student body have been thus far. He is simply just excited to share his passion for music and thanks us for the warm welcome he has received and "can't wait to see what awesome music we can make this year!"



8th Grade Girls Basketball

Tommy Balkir

With a 2-0 record already in the books, the 8th grade Unami girls' basketball team jumped into their 2017 season with a hot start. They have already defeated both Tohickon and New Hope, and are looking forward to taking on the other middle schools in and out of the district.

The team's head coach, Coach DeAngelis, is predicting a very successful year for the girls. His goal, as always for the members of his team, is to have fun, learn about the sport of basketball, and become better players, which, if accomplished, will translate into wins for Unami.



This season, the team is focusing on playing strong defense against their opponents and being competitive in all of their games. The athletes on the team are working together and working hard, clearly evident in their first two match-ups this season.

With multiple practices every week, the girls are preparing to take on the competition coming their way from the other Central Bucks middle schools. They would like to see large crowds at their games, so show your support for Unami by attending one of their matches. We wish the team our best and hope they bring home the win for our school.



Baking Ideas for This Winter Season

Jackie Wells

Most people know there are many traditions for the holidays. There are some things that happen during the holiday season that are common, like hanging a mistletoe. Others, like leaving bacon instead of cookies for Santa, are less common. But one tradition that many people in the United States can't miss is making delicious holiday recipes for their family and friends to share.

Every year, my family makes a couple of recipes that no one wants to miss. The first one is traditional butter spritz cookies. These cookies are probably the best cookies that I have ever tasted. They are perfect for dipping in milk and for platters given to friends and families. These recipes can be found almost everywhere, and some people even have their own recipes. These great cookies are definitely worth a try.

The next tried-and-true food that finds a way to our table every Christmas is peppermint bark. It takes a bit of time and effort, but it's worth it; the peppermint bark is gone by the end of the week. Its minty taste and crunchy texture is sure to be a hit at any holiday party. The best recipe that we found was on the Food Network site, but anyone can find one on Pinterest or even make one themselves.

Lastly, there is the best thing anyone can have on a cold day: candy-cane brownies. These are brownies with little bits of candy cane in them that taste phenomenal, and my family makes them almost every year. They are easy to make, and there are tons of recipes online.

Tradition is something almost everyone can relate to. Sometimes, it revolves around decorations. Sometimes, it revolves around food. These recipes are something that nearly everyone can do, and if you don't already have a holiday tradition, these recipes are something that you can try.



Call Of Duty—A Passage Through Time

Shreyas Ramkumar

“Fire in the hole!” You hear as you run out the trench and onto incoming fire. *Call of Duty* (COD) is one of the most famous first-person shooter franchises in the world. It all started when a few developers of *Medal of Honor*, another first-person shooter franchise, branched out to form a company called Infinity Ward. They created the first *Call of Duty* game, which was a squad-based game. This was a revolutionary concept, since shooters at the time had a single protagonist who was the best shot in the army. *Infinity Ward* created an AI which could adapt to the situation you were currently facing. With realistic graphics for the time, the first title was a major success. The second title, *Call of Duty 2*, added regenerating health that is a standard today and featured additional weather effects, which was also well received by the public. *Call of Duty 3* was taken over by Treyarch, who did an excellent job with character development and graphical presentation. Just like its predecessors, COD 3 was well received by the public. Then came *COD Modern Warfare*, which added new features like a heads-up display and a multiplayer that solidifies the game's high status. After that, *COD World at War* dives into WWII for the last time before 2017's *COD WWII*, bringing an unexplored Pacific theater of WWII. The game adapts the successful multiplayer formula of *Modern Warfare* to suit WWII. It also introduced the popular *Zombies* game mode that became a standard for its sequels. When released, *Modern Warfare 2* blew the gaming community away. With overhauled graphics and a multiplayer that emphasizes teamwork, *Modern Warfare 2* was regarded as one of the best COD games. Then came *Black Ops* and *Black Ops 2* both had very good multiplayers and had generally positive feedback from gamers. *Modern Warfare 3* did not do anything revolutionary, but it still added features like improved sounds and better graphics (*MW3* came out before *Black Ops 2*). *COD Ghosts* presented a campaign, but fans criticized it for not adding any new features. *Advanced Warfare*, however, breathed new life into the franchise by adding an exoskeleton feature and creative campaign missions. This resonated with the fans, scoring *Advanced Warfare* good reviews. *Black Ops 3* raised the bar even higher with great co-op and a great zombie mode. Sadly, *Infinite Warfare* let fans down with its over-the-top setting and unoriginal features. With *COD WWII*, I leave the review and opinion to you.



Tech and Entertainment

Google Pixel 2

Varun Rao



Apple. Samsung. Everyone knows these companies. They are some of the biggest smartphone manufacturers, and they have over a billion dollars in earnings every year. However, one company that didn't really come into the smartphone industry till last year is making big strides. The company that has exploded onto the smartphone scene is Google!

No one had really expected Google to come into this business, but on October 20, 2016, Google released the Google Pixel. It broke records in many different categories, including the amazing camera. It improved on many things Samsung or Apple didn't make properly. Its camera was proven to be better than Samsung, and it seemed easier to operate than any other Android devices. Finally, one company came up with a personal assistant that understands what you say. So no more of Siri coming up with words that you didn't say. Google's personal assistant can understand what you are saying in seven different accents, and it will have the answers to most of your questions as it uses Google.

Now onto the part of this article that is particularly important! The Google Pixel 2 was released on October 19, 2017, literally a year after the first release. And the "coolness" of this phone is off the charts! It has a water-resistant outer body, so you can take it into the pool if you want. If you want to charge your phone really fast and then get going, Google is probably one of the best phones in the business. With just 15 minutes of charging, the phone can last for 7 hours. It also has very good security. It has a chip to protect against viruses and malware. It protects information on your apps from getting compromised, too. And if you are one of those people that for some reason likes huge phones, Google has you covered. They released the Pixel 2 and the Pixel 2 XL. The Pixel has a length of 5.7 inches, compared to the XL's 6.2 inches. Finally, one of the most important and coveted part of the Google Pixel 2. The camera. It has 12.2 megapixels, and a stabilizing feature. It is unreal!

And for the people who are *still* not sold on the Pixel 2, the color, design, and everyday specs are sure to bring you this way. This phone comes in regular colors like "Just Black" and "Clearly White", but it also has a new color called "Kinda Blue". It's touch ID sensor on the back of the phone makes it much easier to operate. It has two speakers and a headphone jack, so music isn't a problem either.

Snow Day Activities

Kirsten Cluett and Nicole Bruno

Winter officially starts on Thursday, December 21, so even though it is 60 degrees as we write this (it's the week after Thanksgiving), we know the snow is coming! Here are our top 20 things to kick off our first snow day:

Outdoor Activities:

1. Go ice skating
2. Build a snowman
3. Build a snow fort
4. Have a snowball fight
5. Go on a winter hike
6. Go snow tubing
7. Play outside with flashlights after dinner
8. Snow shovel for your neighbors for free
9. Go on a winter photo scavenger hunt
10. Have a snow sculpture competition

Indoor Activities:

1. Learn a new craft (like origami)
2. Bake cookies
3. Read a book
4. Learn card tricks (or magic tricks)
5. Make hot cocoa
6. Clean your room
7. Have a board game or video game tournament
8. Hold a movie marathon
9. Have a slumber party
10. Make a marshmallow snowman



Games

Quick Christmas Picture Find

By: Julia Schofield

Pictures to find: Elf, Rudolf, Reindeer, Christmas Hat, Stocking, Mistletoe, Candy Cane, Christmas Bell, Santa and his Reindeer Outline, Present. Good Luck!



Winter Riddles

Claire Strobel

1. I fly when I am born, lie when I'm alive, and run when I am dead. What am I?
2. What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
3. Why don't you see penguins in Britain?
4. What's the difference between winter and a hurt football player?
5. What do snowmen take when they get sick?



1. Snow
2. Frostbite.
3. Because they're afraid of Wales.
4. One is cold out and the other is out cold.
5. A chill pill!