



Christmas Traditions Add Magic to Season

By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff

Christmas is coming up! It's in less than three weeks already, could you believe that? As you probably know, it's on December 25th.

Even though it's so close, it still seems so far! But that won't stop singing Christmas songs, setting up the tree, and drinking eggnog, even when your parents say it's still too early! This fun festive holiday celebrates the birth of Jesus.

It originated in the Roman Catholic Church. What is the first thing you think of when someone says "Christmas"? Well, for me, it's gift giving, my favorite! Gift giving and receiving--what could be better than that? And of course, Santa Claus, a very important figure on Christmas Day who brings children gifts.

Or did you think of Christmas music? So many hit songs are Christmas songs--honestly, one of my favorite part of Christmas! And let's not forget the elf! Even though you cannot touch it, waking up every morning and looking for a tiny little elf has always been one of my favorite traditions!

But my personal favorite has always been Advent calendars! There's so many choices every year that it's so hard to choose--should you go with chocolate, makeup, candy, or squishies? Either way, unboxing a little gift every day is even better than Christmas itself! And what's better than that?

Not only do we have Advent calendars for the whole entire month, but we also get Christmas Eve! Hanging out next to the fire with my whole family the night before Christmas is, and will always be, magical. While Christmas is the perfect time to blast Christmas music, play in the snow, and go shopping, it's also so peaceful. I mean, imagine this: a cold, frosty day. No school of course, the roads were too icy. Laying on your couch on a Tuesday, snuggled up in your Christmas PJs right next to a fireplace surrounded by your loved ones. Name a better feeling and place than that! And while I miss summer more than anything, at least there is a bright side to the freezing weather. And don't even get me started on it getting dark outside even though it is still mid-afternoon.

Anyway, I know this is getting long (there is just so much to say about this wonderful festive holiday and season) but to wrap all of this up, I am over the moon that Christmas is coming up, and I hope you are too! Merry Christmas everyone!



Life Didn't Give You Lemons

By Eli Mundis
Tusker Tribune Staff

So, a popular fruit in many different places, cultures, and countries, is the lemon, which is a yellow, sour fruit that grows off of trees, but what are the origins behind the puckering fruit we know today?

The answer, surprisingly, is that it is a crossbreed, meaning a mix of two different fruits, those being the bitter orange, and the citron.

Over time, actual pirates tried to make a fruit that could prevent a disease known as scurvy from taking over the body by consuming enough Vitamin C, which was a nutrient found in many fruits and vegetables. Eventually, they came to the conclusion of the lemon, which could sustain them from getting the disease and allow them to survive being a pirate.

Another version of the lemon was created by farmers due to its high nutrient content from the soil it inhabited. These can clearly show that lemons weren't natural and were man made from other fruits.

Thank you for reading, and I will see you in the next article!



Wolves are Complex Animals



By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

When most people think of wolves, they imagine scary animals howling at the moon with sharp teeth and glowing eyes. But the truth is, wolves are actually one of the most important animals in the entire ecosystem, and they deserve a lot more respect than they usually get.

Wolves live in packs, which are like families. A pack usually has a mom and dad wolf (called the alpha pair) and their pups from different years. They work together to hunt, raise the babies, and protect their territory. What's really cool is that wolves communicate in tons of ways—not just howling. They use tail positions, facial expressions, and even different scents. Their teamwork is so strong that scientists often compare wolf packs to human families or even sports teams.

One of the most important things wolves do is keep nature balanced. They usually hunt weak, sick, or old animals, which actually helps herds stay healthy. In Yellowstone National Park, wolves were reintroduced after being gone for years. When they came back, they helped control deer and elk populations, which allowed plants and trees to grow again. That brought back birds, beavers, and even changed the shape of rivers. Scientists call this a “trophic cascade,” which is basically when one species affects everything around it like falling dominoes.

But even though wolves help the environment, they still face problems. Some people fear them or think they are dangerous to farmers' animals. While conflicts do happen sometimes, there are ways to protect livestock without harming wolves, like using special fences, guard dogs, and motion-activated lights. Many organizations also teach people how to live safely near wildlife.

Wolves may seem fierce, but they're also loyal, intelligent, and essential to the planet. Instead of seeing them as villains, we should see them as the guardians they truly are. If we want healthy forests, strong ecosystems, and thriving wildlife, then protecting wolves isn't just helpful—it's necessary.

So next time you hear a wolf howl, remember: it's not a monster calling out. It's a reminder that nature is still alive, wild, and worth protecting.

A lot Goes Into Playing Lacrosse

By Gia Sardilli
Tusker Tribune Staff

Lacrosse is such a fun sport. There are a lot of different rules. Here are some of the rules. The field must be 110 yards long by 60 yards wide. Game structure should be played with 12 people including goalkeeper. You must wear eye goggles to protect your eyes. Have an appropriate stick to play with. And a mouthguard to protect your teeth if they get hit.

The starting play is when you get in the middle of the field and do a draw. That is when you put the ball between two sticks from the two different opponents. The ref puts the ball in. Once he or she blows the whistle, the two girls shoot up the ball, and everyone tries to get it.

While the two opponents are doing that, they are obviously in the middle of the field where there are two more people from each team spread in a circle around them. Those are the three midfielders. Then one side is the attackers, and the other side is the defense.

First, we will start with the attackers. The attackers stay on one side of the field until the draw happens. Once that happens then you can start playing but rarely defense mostly offence.

Now it is time for defense. When you are defense, you stay on the other side of the field and defend when the ball comes to you. When someone comes to you with the ball, you need to block them. Like moving your stick side to side or pushing them to not get the shot. There's another type of shot they get when they get fouled. They get a “spot and shoot”. When the ref blows the whistle, that's when the offense teams try to shoot. The defense player's crash. That means they block and try for the person to not get the shot.



King Tut's Tomb Still Captures the World's Imagination



By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

When most people think of ancient Egypt, they picture tall pyramids, golden treasure, and pharaohs wearing fancy crowns. But no story is more mysterious or exciting than the story of King Tutankhamun the “boy king” who ruled Egypt over 3,000 years ago.

King Tut became a pharaoh when he was only nine years old. While kids today are doing homework and sports, he was literally ruling one of the most powerful civilizations in the world. Even though he was young, his reign was important because he brought back the old Egyptian religion and restored temples that had been destroyed before he became king.

Sadly, King Tut died very young — around 18 or 19 years old. Historians still don't know exactly how he died. Some think it was a sickness, others think it was an accident, and some believe it might have been something even stranger. The mystery is one of the reasons people are still fascinated with him today.

The most unbelievable part of King Tut's story happened thousands of years after he died. In 1922, an archaeologist named Howard Carter discovered his tomb in the Valley of the Kings. It was almost completely untouched, which almost never happens. Inside were over 5,000 artifacts including jewelry, statues, furniture, and even snacks for the afterlife. But the most famous item was the solid gold funerary mask— you've definitely seen it in pictures — shining, detailed, and honestly iconic.

King Tut didn't rule for very long, but his tomb taught the world more about ancient Egypt than almost any other discovery. His story reminds us how even the shortest lives can leave the biggest impact.

And that's why King Tutankhamun remains one of history's most legendary pharaohs.

A Not So Very Cute and Friendly Story :)

By Ian Dempsey
Tusker Tribune Staff

CHAPTER 1

November 4th 7:54 AM

The blast door is about to close! And the entire lift will be crushed.

I start panicking, but then I see a maintenance electrical box secured onto the wall of the shaft. While he's distracted, I take the final guard's staff and throw him off the lift. I aim the staff at the electrical box. This is the only chance I have to make it out of this prison. Once it's lined up, I aim, throw and . . .

November 4th, 7:43 AM

An announcement chimes: “HSP-293 please continue onto the lift.”

A man steps forward onto the rusty platform.

“LSP-023, please continue onto the lift.

Another man steps forward. The line shifts once more.

“EHS room to your left.”

Nobody moves.

“I repeat, EHSP-001 please exit the line and enter the room to your left.”

Silence.

“This is your final warning. Go to the room on your left. 5 4 3 2 1.” Alarms blare, at least half of the guards start frantically searching the line, I stay still, silent, trying not to be noticed, because being noticed . . . being noticed means death.

Two guards rush past me holding some sort of fly swatter shaped stick. Now's my chance. I quickly dash onto the lift, I thought I was in the clear until, “HEY, I FOUND HIM! HE RAN ONTO THE LIFT!”

Oh no. I see one guard rush at me. I punch him and disarm him, taking his weapon and hitting him with it. I run to the control booth, and tell the man in it to press the emergency start button. When he refuses, I show him the weapon and ask him once again, “Press the emergency start.”

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Friendly Story

From Page 3

He refuses so I hit him with the weapon, and press a button labeled “EMRG-START”. I see two lights turn on next to two keyholes, I turn both keys and see a lever light up, but before I can press it, I notice a lot more guards running onto the lift. I pull the lever and feel a shake before hearing grinding and mechanical noises. The guards stop, confused, so I take the chance and attack. I hit one and kick another one off, but there are about 4 more that I have to deal with.

“THIS FACILITY IS NOW UNDER LOCKDOWN. STAND CLEAR OF THE BLAST DOORS AS THIS FACILITY IS UNDER LOCK-”.

I push another guard off but the other guards get behind me. I hit two and shove another one off, but he hangs on to the lift. He pulls himself back up and hits me, and we start wrestling, I get him to the front of the lift where we fight each other before I push him off. But because I didn't push him off the side, he was caught in the wheels moving the lift.

Just then the two final guards swing at me but miss, so I take the opportunity to hit them, but before I can, the lift starts shaking. I look in front of the lift, and see a blast door closing!

The remaining guard and I are stunned. The giant metal slabs moving with gears and pistons and hydraulics all moving in a synchronized WOOSHH CH CH CH Ding ding ding! I hear metal groan beneath me. As we get closer, I remember where I am and what I'm doing.

November 4th 7:54 AM--continued.

I aim the staff at the electrical box. This is the only chance I have to make it out of this prison. Once it's lined up, I aim, throw and . . . it hits. ZAAPP CHZZ CHZZZ BOOM! The electrical box explodes and sends a ripple throughout the shaft. Some dirt falls from the ceiling.

The blast door makes noises that one could only call bad. Luckily, bad is exactly what we want in this scenario! But even though they have slowed down tremendously, the blast doors, have not stopped closing. Thinking fast, I take a piece of metal that fell, and jump off the lift, onto the blast doors. When on the lift, the lift seemed big. In front of the lift, the lift seems like a leviathan.



Get Ready to Ski!

By William Mifsud
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever skied or snowboarded? If so, you can go on the ski and snowboard trip on Martin Luther King Jr. Day!

The prior requirement is to bring your own ski or snowboard (depending on what you do) on the trip. If you haven't, you can't go on the trip. It is on a mountain, and when the trip is over, you get to relax in a nice, cozy cabin. The bus will get you and later bring you back home.

If you haven't tried skiing or snowboarding, you should, because for 6th grade spots, there's almost no room! If you want to go, better snowboard or ski, and if you don't, (I already said this) you can't go. If you want to go, ask your parents, (that is if you've skied or snowboarded before) and you'll be on your way.

Fortunately, if you have gone snowboarding or skiing, and if you do it at least once, you can go! Better hurry. Time is running out!

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Awesome Concerts and . . . A Name Change for Our Columnist!

By Lucas Mejia
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello and welcome to the **Weekly Life** of a 6th Grade Musician. If you recall, this column used to be called the **Daily Life** of a 6th Grade Musician. But let's call it the **Weekly Life** instead. I know there's a change in the name, but that's because the newspaper is released weekly and not daily.

Now back to the article, I do all the clubs involving orchestra so I will talk about clubs, too. First, Chamber Orchestra performed at Harvest Moon: Mr. Gilbert told us to wear festive attire for the concert, so I wore a Santa hat. I thought so many people were there to watch us! But then I realized that chorus was performing there too! What a surprise!

Everyone started to set up, and we jumped into our first selection, "Ice Sculptures" by Brian Balmages. The piece was a bit difficult because I was the only viola there, but we managed to pull through, and we finished the song. The cello sat up and introduced the next song, "Inverno". "Inverno" was originally part of a combination of four songs of the "Seasons by Vivaldi". "Inverno" is the season of winter. I personally found it thrilling, I loved that I was the only viola there, so I got to play the solo.

After that, chorus started their part at Harvest Moon. Now, on to the main concert that was held on Wednesday in the middle school auditorium. Unfortunately, I was late by like 10 minutes to the rehearsal. When I arrived, I immediately headed to the orchestra room. There we unpacked and tuned. Everyone was responsible for their own music, except the performing clubs. Their music was already on stage.

Rockestra was first, the song we performed for Rockestra was "Crazy Train" by Ozzy Osbourne. In "Crazy Train", I love the viola solo because we have the melody and everybody starts to focus around us. We finished this song and Chamber started to perform.

Now, this is a long article and there's really no room to talk about Chamber, especially because I already talked about them earlier in this article. Now, moving on, let's talk about the 6th grade performance. First, we played "Moonlight Tango" by Richard Meyer and then "Anchored" (I don't know the composer) and then "Aeolian Rock" by Jeffrey Frizzi. "Aeolian Rock" is my favorite. It features a viola solo. The 7th and 8th grade performed two songs. One of the songs was called "Thundersnow", which is a great song. I love it!

During the performance on Wednesday, I was not the only viola. There were probably like 15 violas spread out throughout the show, but there was only one other viola that played with me on the clubs. No matter what you played, congratulations on the concert, and good job! See you in the spring concert! That's all we have for today see you next time on the **Weekly Life of a 6th Grade Musician**.

