

Shumate Squawk

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THE WAYS OF CHRISTMAS

By: Gunnar Dochnal

Many people have different views of Christmas, but there are a few things that cannot be disputed. The first recorded Christmas was held on December 25, in the year 336. It was on this date that the Roman Pope Julius declared a feast to celebrate the birth of Jesus, which is the reason why we celebrate Christmas. This word "Christmas" comes from the Middle English Cristemasse, which in turn comes from Old English Cristes-messe. It is literally a shortened version of "Christ's mass." To help celebrate the occasion, Christmas lights were later invented in 1882 by Edward Johnson. But how did a feast to celebrate the birth of Jesus turn into the gift giving season we have today? The

modern gift giving grew out of traditions surrounding the historical Saint Nicholas, a fourth-century Greek bishop and gift-giver from Myra, Turkey. This spread through Western culture and was adopted and altered to fit the persona of a gift giver. To the British he is Father Christmas, to the Dutch he is Sinterklaas, and the German figure of Christkindl. There are many religions and cultures around the world that have similar feasts and gift giving in the month of December, though they go by different names.

So we know Christmas is a real time of the year, now how about Santa? "No, I don't think he is real because my mom told me he wasn't real," said Jess Lakos, 8th grade student at Shumate Mid-

dle School. "Your parents don't do it (act as Santa), and why would they?" Said Jonathan Smith, another 8th grade student at Shumate Middle School. Well now that we know who believes and who doesn't, what is the proper way to address this season of the year? "Merry Christmas, because it could be any holiday with Happy Holiday," said Jess Lakos. "Merry Christmas, because happy holidays doesn't sound good," said Jonathon Smith. The spirit of caring and giving is without a doubt, a worthy ideal. With that spirit in mind, have a Merry Christmas!



AMERICA IS FREEZING

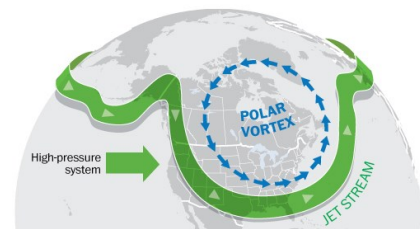
By: Taylor Viers

The eastern 2/3rds of the United States are experiencing record low temperatures. This is caused by a "Polar Vortex" a cold bed of air sitting above the Arctic Circle. Now when the cold air is blown down from the vortex the area affected becomes colder. Now here's some history for you. In 1934 Vanderbilt Michigan got to an astonishing -51 degrees, and in Prospect Creek Camp Alaska it reached -79 degrees. The average in Michigan is 17 degrees. The av-

erage low last week is much lower than that being around 14.1 degrees (excluding wind chill).

Now that the temperatures are down let's hear how this will affect the public themselves. Ben Tjernlund an 8th grader commented on the weather "It will affect me because I like to be outside". Jack Morrison another 8th grader commented on the cold temperatures. "I hate cold weather". Also with the only positive response about the weather 8th grader Gunnar Dochnal "I like it be-

cause I get to do winter sports and it's close to my birthday". Whether you like snow or hate it, one things for sure it isn't going anywhere anytime soon.



MORE L'S

By: Joe Calus

An L a day keeps the W's away, after another heartbreaking L your Seahawks fell to 2-7 with a buzzer beating loss to Lincoln Park, and that just has to make their confidence even worse. Guard Ryan Slusarczyk expressed his feelings about it, stating "The team's confidence was finally picked up and then it got stepped on and destroyed." It has to be very disappointing seeing another team celebrating on your court.

But over the course of the season the



team has improved, and even guard Brent Willis said "Yes I believe we've improved, but we just haven't been able to win any games." He is correct about that. They are

only seeming to come out in the first half and just don't show up in the second half. Even forward Brendan Yaramus stated, "I believe we have but we just lose to these other schools who are just physically and mentally better than us." It just seems like they aren't mentally prepared for these bigger and better teams. Your Seahawks have three more games remaining on the season and they looking to close out strong.

COMP WEEK!

By: Alexis Howe

Competition week, the Shumate cheerleaders giving all they've got for this competition. This Saturday, December 17th in the Carlson gym come support at the first, Pat Christianson competition. All of the girls have worked hard up to this day, giving all they've got, draining all of their energy at practice, from 5:45-9:00 the girls work for greatness.

At the beginning of the season the girls weren't so confident for this season, but now the cheerleaders are very confident in themselves. "Yes, we weren't doing that well at first, but now we're doing good, We are having great practices", says Natalia Terleckyj in 7th grade. Throwing tucks and springs Lilli Fraczek

coming in clean with the "Cartwheel tuck, I have mixed feelings if I'm excited or not, I'm just nervous how it



goes." Some cheerleaders excited and some are not, Ava Gillespie more excited than ever "yes I'm excited because we are going against Trenton and Southgate,

and my good friend Maddie is coming that moved." Catch your Shumate cheerleaders continuing with the winning tradition on Saturday, December 17th.

FINAL MEET

By: Moriah Edwards

Last Thursday Shumate was competing against Taylor Co-Op. Shumate swimmers won their Final meet. The score is 4-2. This week is their league meet against all down-river schools when Shumate goes to Allen Park High school for this championship meet. The swim team has worked hard this season. By working on their flip turns, starts both relay and regular. The divers have also been working on their dives. The swimmers have really worked hard and improved this swim season.

have done really good this season because everyone tries their best



and we only lost 2 meets." As the swim season is coming to an end there's always next year and for the 8th graders who are leaving Shumate are going to Carlson and can go swim on the Carlson swim team. The Girls Varsity team starts in August while the boys start in November. Good job to all Shumate swimmers on an outstanding

Hailey Holbdy 6th grader had some things to say about this swim season. "I think we



SELECT CHAMPIONSHIPS AROUND THE CORNER!

By: Alyssa Koons

The team has had an outstanding season this year ending with a record of 5-1. The guys will end the year with one last practice and a pasta banquet!! The whole team getting together one more time before they go their separate ways. Next year all of the 8th graders will be moving up to the high school. We have some very talented 8th graders who have really helped the team succeed. The boys will be missed by everyone. Just to name a few: Lucas Kutty, Tyler Winemko, and Ben Higgins have really

had an outstanding year and will hopefully carry out their swim career next year at the high school.

With the season ending all of the swimmers are hoping for one last chance to race. Diving and swim championships are right around the corner and only a select team will be heading to Allen Park this Wednesday. Seventh grader Nikolas Brown shows some support to the swimmers he thinks will make the championship team. "I think Ben Conroy and Madison Taylor will definitely make the championship team.

They are both really great swimmers. I most likely won't make the team this year but I'm going to keep practicing and strive to make it next year." The roster for the select team will be posted soon the boys will be waiting.



TOP CONTENDERS?

By: Gavin Kongeal

The Lions and Packers are on big hot streaks but are they still big Super Bowl contenders? The Packers just came off a big victory as they destroyed the Seattle Seahawks 38-10, Aaron Rodgers and Jordy Nelson both at the top of the TD charts contributed a lot towards the successful win, the Packers are now 7-6. The Lions and Bears played a close game but with just minutes left the Lions scored a go ahead touchdown as they beat the Bears 20-17 bring the Lions to 9-4 and the Bears to 3-10. The Vikings had an easy week as they passed by the Jaguars 25-16 leaving them still tied with the Packers at 7-6.

With the chances of the Bears making the playoffs gone, the last couple playoff spots has left three teams to fight for them.

Ryan Slusarczyk and 8th grade Lions fan "Loves the Lions chances at making the playoffs because they are on a huge hot streak and because of that I even think they have a chance at the Super bowl." The Vikings chances are slim because of all the injuries but if they can get healthy in time they have a good chance. Taylor Viers an 8th grade football fanatic has taken the chances of the Packers playoff hopes into consideration "The only way they can make it is if the Lions and Vikings screw up and the Packers win out it

will be hard but it is still possible." What do you think the 2017 playoffs will look like?



MICHIGAN RECRUITING

By : Ben Tjernlund

Michigan is working on picking up the #1 recruit in the nation, Najee Harris. He is currently verbally committed to Alabama and is a running back, but is deeply considering Michigan. Brent Willis, when asked if Najee will go to Michigan said, "Nope, Michigan isn't as good as Alabama." Joe Calus said, "Yeah he will go to Michigan because Alabama lost their offensive coordinator." Will the #1 recruit end up at Michigan for two years in a row?

Michigan also just got a 5 star wide receiver out of Detroit Cass Tech, Donovan Peoples-Jones. He committed yesterday, Thursday, December 15th. Nathan Darville, when asked if he would be good, said, "Yeah, he is a boss." Brendan Yaramus, said, "He will definitely be good, because Michigan gets good recruits." Let's see if Jones will be a bust, or a star.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS UP SHUMATE

By: Madison Wiseman

Christmas is right around the corner, and the Shumate Seahawks are getting in the Christmas spirit. Shumate Middle School is ready for the holiday of presents and family. Shumate is getting ready for their annual Christmas celebrations. Including the holiday movie, Shumate's door decorating contest, and the lights outside of the school. The door decorating contest has been going on in everyone's advisories since last week, and the final decisions are on December 23. In the past years at Shumate they have had an assembly with activities performed by the Seahawks student council. This year, they are having a movie during 5th and 6th hour, with your advisory class. Also, your advisory even has the choice of which

Christmas movie you want to watch! Since sadly, the Shumate Seahawks will be having a full day of school before break, the movie will be on December 23. The Seahawks are pumped up for Christmas and can't wait for the things it has in store, at school and at home.

Shumate Middle School's students and teachers are excited for Christmas to finally come. Most people during Christmas time loves Christmas music. Some popular Christmas songs that have been made so long ago, still seems to having a liking on people. Some of these popular songs include, Silent Night (2013), Santa Clause is coming to town (1945), rocking around the Christmas tree (1958), Its beginning to look a lot like Christmas (1987), and holly Jolly Christmas (2011). Students at Shumate are

very excited for the annual door decorating contest in advisory. 7th grader McKenna Wiseman believes her advisory has what it takes to win the contest. "My advisory is working very hard on our door and I believe we have many details to be able to win the contest." Also, many 7th and 8th grade students are very excited they don't have to sit through the assembly on the last day before break. 7th grader Loren Subyak is one of the most excited for this change. "I am excited we aren't doing the assembly this year because most people don't pay attention and I also don't like it because I'm in student council so it's better for me because I don't have to perform." Students are very excited for this change and will be looking forward to the movie on December 23.

ELF ON THE SHELF!!!

By: Joslyn ferguson

Do you have an Elf on the Shelf? These figures are very popular in the United States and have been for many years. According to She Knows, "This is an elf which is a doll, called a scout elf, and it is sold with the book Elf on the Shelf." Every night, your elf changes where they are around the house and they watch over you until Christmas.. The Elf can do crazy things during the night. According to Buzzfeed, "The elves are crazy sometimes. That eat all your m&m's." You can name your elf as well. According to the website Elf on the Shelf, "The top three

names for the Elf on the Shelf Buddy, Jingles, and Snowflake." Many people in Shumate have an Elf on the Shelf, it's interesting, and it's informative.

Two 6th graders from Shumate would like to say a few words about the Elf on the Shelf. Seth Broughton said, "I have an Elf on the Shelf and his name is Jet." Halie Furkas said, "One time, my Elf on the Shelf formed a wall of string lights so I couldn't get out of my room." According to She Knows, "Elf on the

Shelf is going international and gaining popularity in the UK, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand and Canada." The Elf on the Shelf makes so many kids smile and hopefully will make more throughout the years.



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES!

By: Adrianna Light

Christmas was declared a holiday on June 26th 1870. The famous Christmas tree tradition was started in Germany but, they put the trees up so spring would come faster. Also the word carol means to sing or dance with joy.

Hailee Donovan in 8th grade said, "Christmas is my favorite holiday because i love putting the tree up with my family we make cookies and listen to music it's fun". Jamie West 8th grade

said, "My favorite holiday activity is this game I play with my family on Christmas it's called pin the nose on the rein-



deer". Madison Horeski 8th grade reported "I love opening the presents on Christmas day because my parents get me all the stuff I wanted and it makes me happy". Make sure to have fun with your family and Merry Christmas! Don't forget the Christmas break starts on 12/23 after a full day of school.



SHUMATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

By: Karina McCullough

Christmas is right around the corner and this week, we have another spotlight. Shumate Middle School's own 6th grader Cassidy Carroll was picked to be put in that spotlight. Cassidy was asked questions about herself and some of her family traditions on Christmas. "For Christmas Eve, we don't have ham, we have pierogies and we have a gift exchange." Cassidy spends her holidays with her two siblings and her dog named Rex.

This Christmas Shumate is celebrating by watching a movie in advisory. She wants to spend that time watching Elf. Her advisory class is also participating in the Christmas door decorating contest that Shumate partakes in every year. Cas-

sidy was asked about her favorite class overall. "My favorite class is poetry and song writing because my teacher, Mrs. Hoover, knows how to make things fun."

Lastly, she was asked about some of her favorite things about Christmas. Cassidy's favorite Christmas food is cookies. Presents are what many people look forward to during the Christmas time. She noted that she would like a camcorder set this year. But Cassidy has other ideas about how to spend the holidays. "I like how everybody is nice enough to take time and go to someone's house and generous enough to give gifts." That's the true meaning of Christmas. Cassidy Carroll is a very compelling per-

son. She was put in the spotlight this week. Who will it be next?



HOW UGLY CAN SWEATERS GET?

By: Angelina Bodner

From Christmas tree lights to The Grinch here are the best ugly Christmas sweaters. First where can you get these creative ugly sweaters? Target, Jc Penny, Macy's and Amazon.com. What are the price ranges? From target you can get some from 21 to 24.99 dollars Macy's 17 to 70 dollars and on amazon 4 to 48 dollars.

Would you show up at family Christmas party with these sweaters? How

about Serena Cowette from 7th grade she has, but on hers there were Gingerbread houses, snow and snowmen. Mia Boulay an 8th grader has never owned a ugly sweater like Serena Cowette but if she were forced to wear and own one she would want " Rudolph, snow, a cartoon Santa from Rudolph the Red-nose Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman." on it, Merry Christmas Hope this will help you win a ugly sweater contest Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



GINGERBREAD

By: Jesse Dowding

Gingerbread figures and their houses date back to the 15th century, the first recorded instance of a gingerbread man was in the court of the queen of England Elizabeth the 1st, she made cookies in the likeness of her and some of her guests to impress them. We don't really know what links them to Christmas, but we're glad they are. Many people still make gingerbread men and houses today, maybe not as complex as they used to be, but still just as delicious. Richard Kamin says that he and his family makes gingerbread men for Christmas ginger root was first discovered in an-

cient China, where it was commonly used as a medicinal treatment for light



ailments, and even today we use it occasionally for stomach pains, nau-

sea, and other stomach problems. Any way you see it, ginger is a great root.



CHRISTMAS TREES

By: Sophia Runyon

What do you prefer, a real Christmas tree or fake Christmas tree? Christmas trees all started in Germany. "Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition as we now know it in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes." According to History.com (History of Christmas Trees). Germans also brought ornaments in 1890's. Presents were originally put in the tree not under the tree, because the toys and trinkets were small enough.

Real trees can cost \$40-100 according to size. But real trees don't last as long as fake trees but, depending on the type of fake trees they can cost around \$70-100 with or without lights, unless you buy them after Christmas and get a discount. Jacob McKay has read a lot of articles about the debate between real and fake trees, he thinks "We should have fake trees, because they last longer and they already come with lights." But, 15 people disagree including Mrs. Sheffler, who prefers real trees "Because I like the

smell of the tree and the tradition with my family... I've grown a love for greenery." About 21 people prefer fake because they don't make a mess, and last longer. But what do you think?



CHRISTMAS MOVIES!

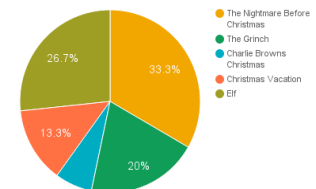
By: Sara Rasmussen

It's the most wonderful time of the year and it's time to celebrate! Grab your hot chocolate and sit down with your family and watch a Christmas movie. Which Christmas movie should you watch though? To find out, we did a poll to find the best Christmas movie. The movies that were included in the poll were Home Alone, The Polar Express, the Nightmare Before Christmas, The Grinch, Frosty the Snowman, Rudolf the Red nose Reindeer, Charlie Brown's Christmas, Christmas Vacation, Elf, and Christmas Carol. From the huge list of festive movies, most people picked the Tim Burton movie, "The Nightmare Before Christmas." The movie is about Jack Skellington, who

lives in "Halloween Town" but ends up stumbling into "Christmas Town" and decides to celebrate the holiday which leads to some consequences. The movie directed by Henry Selick seems to be very popular with lots of people including Reyna Macabebe, "The Nightmare Before Christmas is the best Christmas movie because Tim Burton is great." We now know what the best Christmas movie is but why do people enjoy these movies so much. Maybe adults like them because it reminds them of when they were children or maybe you're like Zoe Cole and you like the festive movies because they put you in the

spirit, "I like Christmas movies because it puts me in the spirit." Now go celebrate this wonderful season by watching some movies and remember to have a Merry Christmas!

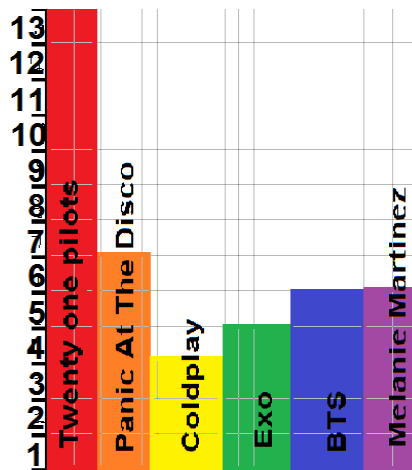
Best Christmas Movies



MUSIC PRIDE

By: Lilliana Rushlow

The world is full of music and love to listen in on it. People have favorite bands or singers they listen to, and the bands/singers can vary in different styles of music they make and some may love or like it. Lots of people like Twenty One Pilots and Panic At The Disco. The same amount of people like the kpop bands Exo and BTS. Six people like Melanie Martinez. These bands/singers are some of the popular music artists.



HOVERBOARD VS BOOSTER BOARD

By: Maya Bailey

Which one would you prefer for Christmas, a hover board or an booterboard? The hover board came out last year 2015 and the booster board came out in 2016. The hover board was created by Shane Chen, and they can cost up to \$1,000. He created it in the west of the United States, he told producers that he hasn't became rich from it. Over 11,000 companies in China are making them and the first year the companies made millions. The booster board came out in 2016. It is created by John Ulmen, Mat-

thew Tran, and Sanjay Dastoor. The single booster board will cost \$999, the duel (two motors) cost \$1,299, and the duel plus (two or more motors) will cost \$1,499+.

Makenna Wiseman in 7th grade said that, "I would want a hoverboard instead of a booster board because they are more fun and exciting." Also, Amerie Clark in 8th grade said "I would want a hover board because it's fun and it's fun to think

you'll fall." If you could have one of



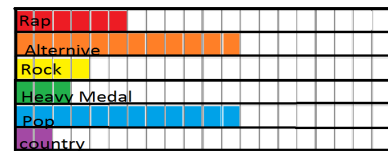
THE MUSIC 4 YOU

By: Kayla Kerr

What's your favorite kind of music? Do you like rock, rap, pop or do you like something different? Students said what their favorite kind of music was and the most said their favorite was alternative and pop and the less favorite was country. The Billboard Hot 100 chart says the top music this year is pop and the top artists are Adele, Bryson Tiller, Twenty One Pilots, Justin Bieber, and Drake; the top artists and music of the year of 2016. For Shumate Middle School the top was a tie between alternative and pop. Close behind was rap. Less liked was country. Some people preferred alternative over the

other genres including Reyna Macabebe, she stated "I like alternative music like Bishop Briggs and Traye Sivan; I like how loud the music is and the lyrics." And some said they preferred pop over the others like Natasha Williams, she said "I like pop because my whole family has a thing with pop so I want to follow it". Kids have also said their music taste has changed over the years like Makayla Straub said "My music choices have changed over the years. I used to like pop like Owl City but now I like alternative like Twenty One Pilots." What music do you listen

these, which one would you to?



CHRISTMAS IS COMING

By Tyler Begeman

What do you want for Christmas? Christmas is 6 days away Shumate Middle School is in a very festive mood with Mr. and Mrs. Clause coming next Friday and also seeing him in the movie elf

on the same day. 4 Students were asked what they want for Christmas Johnny Smith wants a laptop for Christmas so he can fulfil his dream as a Youtuber. Curtis Gayle wants to see his brother because he has not seen him in a long time be-

cause he has a job now away from home. Eli Rowe wants money because he likes money. Gavin Kongeal wants Packer vs Lions Tickets.

SHUMATE DOOR DECORATING

By: Sareena Newsome

What kind of door decorating are you doing for the Shumate decorating contest? We only have one more week to work on these doors. The decorating ends Thursday Dec. 22. Then the Shumate Student council will start choosing the winner. It's always exciting to see the

different kind of ideas the Shumate students are doing to decorate the doors. There is one winner per grade and then there's one overall Champion. Let's hope that everyone finishes on time. Some people are getting a little tense because of how far away they are from finishing. A lot of doors are very interest-

ing to see but Chase Willburn 6th grade had an interesting plan. "We're planning on doing a neighborhood with Santa going down the chimney with his feet hanging out from the chimney delivering the Christmas presents." It's very hard to make a new kind of idea for the decorating. Good luck Shumate! Who do you think will win?





Holiday Bucket List

☐ Decorate a tree

☐ Mail holiday cards with a personal note

☐ WRITE A LETTER TO SANTA☐ Take a family photo

☐ Wear a little red, green, or white in December

☐ Bake holiday cookies☐ MAKE A SNOWMAN

☐ Watch a holiday movie with a warm cozy blanket

☐ Surprise someone with an unexpected gift.

☐ Build a gingerbread house☐ VOLUNTEER

☐ SEE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS☐ SING HOLIDAY SONGS

☐ Go on a Santa Express train trip and have hot cocoa

☐ Kiss someone under the mistletoe

☐ Celebrate with family, friends and neighbors

Enjoy every moment & make this holiday season the happiest it's ever been

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