



The Paw Print

Oxford Middle School
Oxford, MI

Nov/Dec 2019

❄️ Christmas Voyages ❄️

By Grace Morgan



Preparing to go on a week-end vacation for Christmas, 7th grader Laura Morgan waits patiently in the car for the long trip. Waiting for the long car ride, in a car full of bags, some of them presents for her five cousins. "I can't wait to see them again, it has been months since I have last seen them," explains Laura



Many people in the world decide to travel for Christmas. many people go away to see decorations, parades, stay warm while celebrating, and just to travel the world. While a lot of people go away to different places like Jamaica, some people consider vacation going to Frankenmuth for the day. However, 52% of middle schoolers from Ms. Werner's 8th-grade class, Mr. Thaler's 7th-grade class, and Mr. McDonald's 6th-grade class would rather stay at home than travel.



6th Grader
Aiden Brede

Seven years ago Aiden went to Disney for Christmas. He was five so he can't remember the event very well, all he can remember is the fact that "I liked the trip overall because I remember it snowing during the fireworks." He stated that he would rather stay home for Christmas so he can stay and visit his family. Although, if he had to go out of town he would go to Mackinac Island with his family.



7th Grader
Andrew Mentier

Andrew has gone to Indiana for Christmas since he can remember. He explained, "In Indiana, we generally get dinner, open presents and go to sleep." He explained how if they were staying in Michigan for Christmas, he would go to his grandmother's house near Lake Michigan. However, he stated, "I would go to the Bahamas if I had to go somewhere out of state."



8th Grader
Alanna May

Alanna has never gone away for Christmas before. "I would rather stay at home for Christmas because it is cozy at home," explains Alanna. However, she would go to Detroit in Michigan if she had to go on a vacation in Michigan, she explained that she wants to go to see the lights. However, Alanna states, "If I had to go somewhere out of state, I would go to New York City, because of the decorations."



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Staff Christmas Vacation

By: Jenna Christoff



When the Christmas season is near, the idea of Christmas is not the only thing in mind- Christmas vacation is also! Every year, OMS students and staff get to experience a Christmas and new years break consisting of two weeks, which is all the talk around school among students, but what about staff? The OMS staff was interviewed to see how they look forward to the break.



8th grade teacher Mrs. Giroux spends Christmas vacation at home with her family. Since not all of her family lives nearby, she doesn't get to spend it with her whole family, but still gets to see most, including her siblings and her kids. If she could go anywhere, she would choose to go down south so she could see the rest of her family who live in Alabama. When asked her favorite part of Christmas she responded, "Sleeping in and eating all of the good Christmas foods." These upcoming years she plans to do all of the upcoming Christmas traditions.



7th grade teacher Ms. McNeill spends Christmas vacation at home with her daughter every year and enjoy doing many outdoor activities together. The majority of her family also comes over to celebrate, including her uncle, parents, and more. If she she would go somewhere where there is snow since she thinks it completes the holiday. When questioned with the topic of her favorite part of Christmas, she responded, "Spending the holiday with my family because it one of the few times a year we all get together." She plans to do this this upcoming Christmas, but is not sure about next year.



6th grade teacher Mrs. McCusker spends Christmas vacation with 6 family Christmas parties every year, and spends the weekend attending them. This has happened since she was born. If she could go anywhere for Christmas, she would travel to someplace very warm with a beach. When asked what her favorite part of Christmas break was, she responded by saying, "My favorite part of Christmas vacation is seeing my daughter open all her presents and getting excited about them." Next Christmas, she hopes to do the same activities as the previous years since they are really fun. These include going to parties, spending time with family, and more.

With Christmas vacation ahead, people are ready to pack up and leave for the break! Here, Lily Nouman demonstrates her excitement for her trip, saying, "I can't wait to take my trip to Florida, I'm so excited." According to CNN.com, 112.5 million people travel for the holidays, including Nouman.

By: Taylor Derey

Oh, the holly jolly holidays are starting to roll into OMS! The hallways are now often filled with laughter and cheers of the students preparing to head home or travel for the holidays. Even though the holidays may be hard for some. But many students tend to be happier around the holidays, but is this only because of the free time given and presents? Although, the holiday spirit starts in students before the elongated break. Or can it be that students tend to be happier at even while still school during the holidays?



6th grade blue student Jack Agan was asked on his perspective of “students being happier around the holidays”. Agan responds, “I think we seem happier because of the presents or candy we may get around Christmas.”



7th grade gold student Cassidy Kolp was asked on different matters. Kolp was asked if being around family and friends on the holidays make it easier for happiness from students. She replied, “Yeah, being around your family and friends make us feel more special and happier around that time of the year!”

8th grade gold student Brayden Travis was asked the holly jolly Christmas music we all know and love. Travis was asked if liking to listen to Christmas music while working gets students in a better mood for the holidays. He reported, “Christmas music gets me in the mood for the holidays.”



Students like Lexie Yankee, Paige Rushlow, and Kaylee Lang like to read many Christmas stories. For instance these 3 8th grade students like to read The Nightmare Before Christmas Poem by Tim Burton from 1982. Rushlow states, “I love reading Christmas books around the holidays. It tends to make me happier!”

Tis the Season To Be with Family

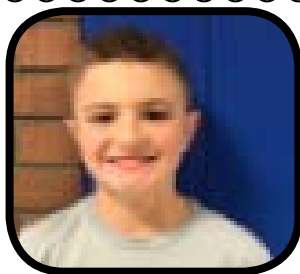
By: Sarah Spearing

The winter holidays almost always seem to bring families together to celebrate and just enjoy being together. While those families are together, many of them have different activities, or traditions, that they do together on a yearly basis. Some families bake cookies, go and buy a live Christmas tree, decorate their house with lights and colorful items, or other traditions that are important to their family. No matter what the tradition, doing it with loved ones brings people together despite what might be going on at the moment, and it gives families and friends time to share and enjoy in each other's company.

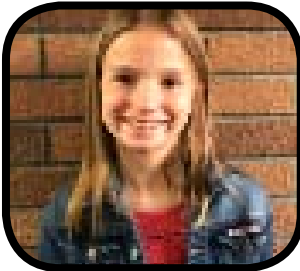


Sweet cookies

are often baked on Christmas Eve and left out for Santa, varying from chocolate chip to sugar cookies. In the article "50 Christmas Traditions for Having a Merry Little Christmas", baking Christmas cookies is number 17 on the list. My mom, and secretary for OES, Michelle Anderson says that her favorite part about baking cookies is that it makes the house smell good and it makes her happy to know that people love eating them.



6th grader Tommy Candella says that he goes to Florida for Christmas with his family, and that his mom, grandma, and sister always bake Christmas cookies around the holidays.



7th grader Mallory Bigelow says that her close family always has a big breakfast on Christmas morning, and they later go to her grandparents house.



8th grader Maggie Casper says that every year her family either stays home or goes up north, and she always bakes cookies with her mom, siblings, and her dad.



(For more Christmas traditions)



The History of Christmas



By: John Hulswit



While many gather around the holidays to eat turkey and open presents by the Christmas tree, some people don't always remember the meaning of Christmas. The meaning of Christmas is mass on Christ's day. The celebration of Jesus and his birth on Christmas. One out of four people interviewed knew the origin of Christmas. Clearly, many people don't celebrate Christmas for this reason, and some don't celebrate Christmas at all.

Over the years of celebrating Christmas, the holiday has been commercialized, leading it to be less religious. For most people who celebrate, Christmas is less religious and more of a tradition. Out of the people we interviewed, 1 out of 4 celebrated Christmas for a religious reasons.

With Christmas being a long lasting tradition and great sales, most places in the world have picked up on it, however a lot of people only know of the Christmas trees, presents, and lights. There are so many different ways Christmas is celebrated around the world.

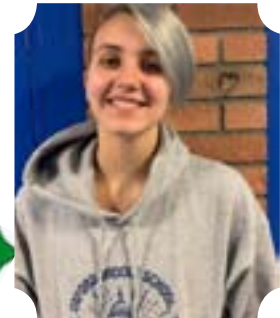
We interviewed a few staff members and students to hear more about their Christmas knowledge.



Do you know how Christmas is celebrated around the world?

"Some people celebrate it by Hanukkah and not Christmas."

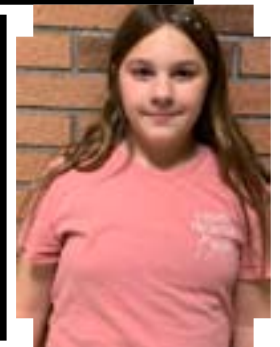
-Adison Rayburn 7th Grade



"I know that it's celebrated very differently in a lot of cultures such as in Mexico there are the three kings and they put gifts in shoes."

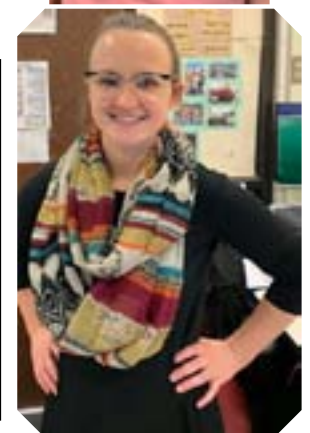
-Sophia Samborski 8th Grade

6th grader Laina Henki explains that people around the world celebrate Christmas in ways other than decorating with Christmas trees and regular mass in the Christian church. She also explains that she celebrates Christmas based on her religious beliefs.



"I know some traditions from Spain, they have multiple celebrations and it is much more based on religion, we talk about it in our Spanish classes, my family is Polish so we do some Polish traditions like hiding a pickle in the tree and trying to find it"

Ms. Busch, Spanish teacher



Many people in OMS celebrate Christmas with traditions that sprout from around the world, for example, some people from the Netherlands in Europe celebrate by putting wooden shoes out by the fireplace and exchanging small gifts like socks or fruit. There are many different ways from all around the world that are celebrated here in America.





Is it Better to Give or Receive?



By: Gabi Wait

The rest of the leaves have finally fallen off the tree and snow is all over the ground which means that Christmas is not that far behind. Everyone has gotten a favorite gift or has given one to someone whether it be family like mom, dad, sister or brother, grandma and granpa or even your friends. The student's and teachers at Oxford Middle school have lots to say about their favorite gifts, and the stories behind them.



6th grader Brianna Strunk's favorite gift is her stuffed bunny. Her mom gave it to her and she says, "It reminds me of her." She got the stuffed bunny for her first Christmas. She also says, "It makes me very happy whenever I have it."



8th grader Izzy Hubbard has a favorite gift which is her baseball mit from her parents for her 9th birthday. She says, "My parents got it for me because they knew how much I wanted to do baseball." The mit also has a special meaning. she adds, "My grandpa played baseball and had the same mit, it was passed on to me."



8th grade teacher Mrs. McDonough gave a favorite gift to one of her students. Two years ago a student's dog had died and she framed a picture of the dog and put it in his locker. She says, "He really appreciated it, and it made me feel good."

We all give and receive gifts, the fun of opening that present on Christmas day with family and friends. In America the average person will spend \$700 a year on family and friends, totaling \$465 billion dollars a year on gifts during the holidays alone, according to ABC News. "My dad got me a mountain bike for christmas I love it!" says 7th grader Brooklyn Zuk.



CHRISTMAS ONLINE



Many holiday shoppers take advantage of the thrill of going to buy Christmas gifts. However, recently many shoppers found a quicker, and more efficient way to do their shopping. This new technique is called online shopping. Online shopping is fast and easy to do, when the weather is bad. One shop people love online is Amazon. Amazon has skyrocketed over the years in their income because online shopping is so much easier when its busy in the stores. In addition, Amazon helps OMS in many ways. OMS can buy school supplies with the fast and easy shipping. This makes buying new school supplies very helpful. In conclusion, many holiday shoppers have been intrigued by the easier and faster online shopping method. However, some shoppers still love to shop in stores. Which do you think is the better choice? Being able to see things in person or have a more efficient process?



By: Paige Rushlow

Online or In Store?



6th grader Avery London stated, "I like to shop at Nordstorm and American Eagle."



7th grader Anna Terenzii says, "I like to shop at American Eagle and Famous Footwear."



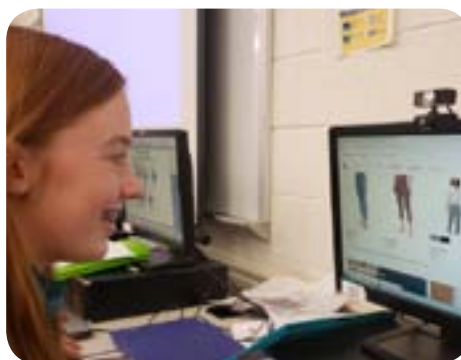
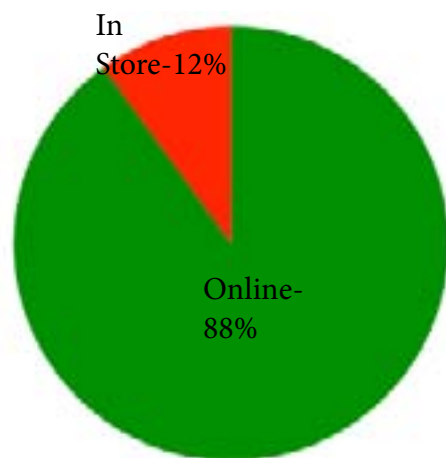
8th grader Jay Cady said, "I like to shop at Kroger, Nike and Addidas."



7th grader Piper Boyt replied, "I like to shop at Hollister and vans."



Online or Instore?



Before the sales and time runs out, 8th grader Ella Boyd shops at Lu Lu Lemon to give her relatives insight of the 3 pairs of leggings she wants. "I like to shop online, because when the stores are busy I get to relax and pick out what I would like from home." says Boyd.

By: Maya Derey

Festive Food



Christmas treats and food are one of the best parts about Christmas. I asked a few students at OMS about their favorite Christmas meals, food, or treats. I also asked some of them what meal they eat every Christmas and what is their least favorite Christmas food. A poll in Mr. Cisneros' 6th hour class shared that 23 students said they prefer sweet Christmas treats and 5 students prefer salty Christmas treats.



Sweet M&M's are a festive Christmas candy that many people buy during the holiday season. According to M&M's.com, nearly 1.5 million M&M's are sold during the holiday season. 7th grader Cameron Derey gets excited when Christmas M&M's are in the store.



6th grader Laural Bird said, "Every Christmas Eve me and my family usually eat ham or turkey, and every Christmas morning me and my family eat cinnamon rolls. My favorite hand-made Christmas treat is my grandma's pumpkin cookies."



7th grader Ben Dutkiewicz said, "Every Christmas me and my family eat perogis because we're Polish. My least favorite Christmas food is candy canes."



8th grader Lauren Hill said, "Every Christmas morning my dad usually makes pancakes with toast and every Christmas day dinner we usually always eat steak."





Favorite Festive Films



By
Madison
Mauser

Watching Christmas movies is a great way to get people into the holiday spirit. There are many different types of Christmas movies, varying from musicals, comedies, dramas, to even horror films. There are so many great Christmas movies out there its hard to pick just one to be your favorite. and the staff and students here at OMS have a wide variety of preferences.

By Ellie
Giesel-
man



A sixth grade gold student, Olivia Graft explained that her favorite christmas movie is Christmas Chronicles. She said, "I liked this movie because the story has a good message about kids helping save Christmas."



A seventh grade gold student, Peyton Feltrin shared, "I like *Jack Frost* because it is about an unreal character [the snowman] coming to life and I overall really enjoy this movies plot."



An eighth grade gold student, Heidi Allen said, "My favorite Christmas movie is the real life version of *The Grinch*. Whenever I watch it, it always reminds me of my sister because as a baby she looked just like the Grinch."



In Oxford Michigan, in Decemebr, its the perfect weather to watch a Christmas movie. According to the EW, *Its a Wonderful Life* is the #1 most watched Christmas movie. "I love watching Christmas movies when its really snowy outside because it feels like Christmas," 8th grader Bella Rushlow said.



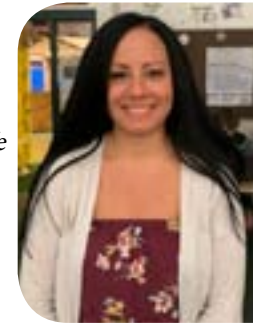
At Ava Bailey's house, 8th graders, Paige Rushlow, Ava, Bailey and Courtney Unruh are watching *Elf*. The movie, which came out in 2003, is one of the groups favorites. "I love how funny and joyful this movie is" says Bailey.



Sixth grade math teacher, Mr. Sterba said his favorite Christmas movie is *I Will Be Home for Christmas*. When asked why, he explained, "Because its funny and it was the first movie we ever watched as a family on Christmas Eve, that started a tradition."



A seventh grade blue teacher, Ms. Baran said, "I have two favorite Christmas movies, *White Christmas* because its a musical and *Its a Wonderful Life* because it reminds everyone about the part you play in everybody's lives, and sometimes its the little things you do that affect a whole lot of people."



An eighth grade gold teacher, Mrs Blascowski also has two favorite Christmas movies. She said, "The first one is *Home Alone* because it is a classic and the second one being *Christmas Chronicles* because it in the movie kids are believing in something greater than just Santa."

In conclusion, the staff and students here at OMS have a variety of favorite christmas movies. The staff tend to lean towards the classics, while the students enjoy newer movies, but everyone can agree that Christmas movies are a wonderful way to introduce the Christmas spirit each and every year.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

By: Delaney Payne

The festive jingles that we know today is modern Christmas music. Modern Christmas music is more up beat and has more party pop anthems to cool rock covers. Normally you wouldn't hear modern Christmas music at a choir concert, you'd hear more classical music. A few examples of this type of music is Last Christmas by Wham!, Mistletoe by Justin Bieber, and Snowman by Sia.



Morgan Haynes says she likes modern Christmas music because "It's really up beat and way better than classic Christmas music. Actually, I think of Mariah Carey as a classic Christmas artist."

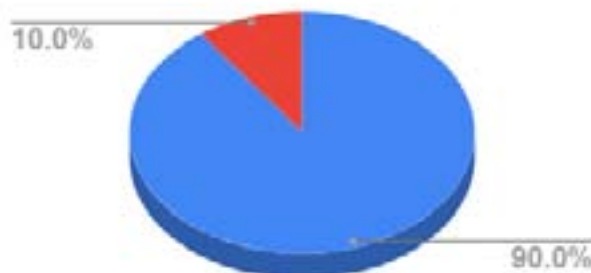
Christmas Magic is in the air



6th grader Jenna Watt says that "All I Want For Christmas" by Mariah Carey is her favorite Christmas song because "It's really festive and gets me in the mood for Christmas." When asked what her least favorite Christmas song was she said, "I don't really have one, they're all really good." However, when asked about the appropriate time to start listening to Christmas music, she said, "I start listening to Christmas music one the first day of December."

7th grader Hazel Robertson really likes the song "All I Want For Christmas", but when asked what her least favorite Christmas song, was she said, "Last Christmas" by Taylor Swift. When asked when she starts listening to Christmas music she said that she starts listening to Christmas music sometime in December.

8th grader Logan Smith says "Last Christmas" is my favorite Christmas song because it's just really cool." However, when asked what his least favorite Christmas song is he said, "Any Christmas song that comes from Justin Bieber because I just don't like him." Logan likes to start listening to Christmas music



After taking a pole on modern Christmas music verse traditional Christmas music the majority of those classes said they liked traditional Christmas music more. 90% of the students like classic Christmas music, which means only 10% percent of student like modern Christmas music

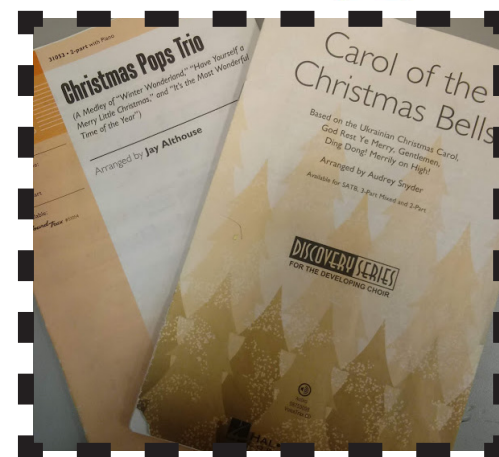
By: Morgan Haynes

Sparkle and Shine It's Christmas Time

Christmas music comprises a variety of genres of music, normally performed and heard around the Christmas season. Music associated with Christmas may be purely instrumental, or in the case of many carols and they, may employ lyrics whose subject matter ranges from the nativity of Jesus Christ, to gift-giving and merrymaking, or cultural figures such as Santa Claus.



8th grader Grace Viviano says that her favorite classic Christmas song is 'I will always love you' by Whitney Houston, Grace says that she like Christmas music more than regular music and she likes her music jingly. " my favorite christmas artist is Whitney Houston" said Viviano, and her least favorite christmas song is " Carol of the Bells" by Wilhousky.



7th grader Rylee Neisler says that her favorite song is 'Oh Holy Night' by Adolphe Adam, and that she prefers Christmas music more than regular music. Neisler stated that she likes spiritual Christmas music more than other Christmas music. " Although my favorite artist is Bing Crosby who sings 'White Christmas.' Rylee stated, her least favorite christmas song is 'jingle Bells' by Bing Crosby, and The Andrews Sisters.

CHRISTMAS TIME. At Oxford Middle School the choir will be having their annual Christmas concert at the Oxford High School Performing Art Center on December 19 at 7:30 , they will be singing around 5-10 songs. "I'm really excited to be there and sing all the songs," said 8th grader Ashlynn Redhage.



6th grader Cayden Camham stated that his favorite christmas song is "Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town" by Lonestar. He says that he perfers modern music over Christmas music, and that he likes christmas song that are more poppy the regular slow songs. My favorite christmas artist is Whitney Houston said Cayden, his least favorite christmas song is "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" by Gene Autry.

BAND (OHS):

5th-6th grade is December 11th

7th grade is December 12th

8th grade is December 16th

ORCHESTRA: (OHS)

Honors is on December 15th (Evergreens Coffee and Bakeshop)

7th and 8th grade is on December 17th

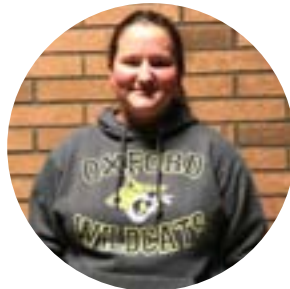
CHRISTMAS SPARKLE

By: Isabella Spezia



People all around the world are starting to put up decorations. According to a study by LendEDU the average person will spend \$633 on decoration. "We need to go shopping for decoration this week" said my mom.

Christmas is often celebrated by putting up decorations and giving gifts to family and friends. The most common Christmas decorations are lights, trees, and decor outside like reindeer, Santa and snowman. Some people decorate with many things while other people keep it simple. The most popular Christmas decoration is candles, ribbons, and garland.



8th grader Willow Wood decorates her house every year for Christmas. She decorates her house with light-up penguins and lights on the outside of their house. She starts decorating in the middle of December and gets everything up in multiple days. She takes everything down a week after Christmas then puts it in her basement for the next year and is sad to take down the decorations because that means that the season is over and she does not want it to end.



7th grader Ronan McDonough likes to decorate his house with just a few decorations. He decorates it with a big tree, ribbons and mini Christmas trees. He starts decorating a week after Thanksgiving and takes it down a week after Christmas. When they are decorating it takes him 2-3 hours and they keep it in their storage room for the next year and is sad to take the decorations down because he does not want the season to be over.



6th grader Keeley Comer likes to decorate her house with a lot of stuff inside and outside for Christmas including tons of lights, snowmen and little reindeer that are in her front yard. Keeley starts decorating when it starts to snow outside and takes a day and a half to get all of the decorations up. She takes them down around New Year's Eve time and puts them either in her barn or garage and is sad to take her decorations down because it makes her feel like Christmas is over and does not want it to be over.

REAL TREES VS FAKE

By: Matthew Barkman

For many, the most memorable part about Christmas is hunting in a snowy field for that perfect tree...or at least it is for some people. Others prefer to look online or in stores for a Christmas tree...or hunt it down in their attic. In 2002 a survey shows, 48 percent of American households had artificial trees, 21 percent had real trees, and 32 had no tree, according to the University of Illinois Extension. Both types have their pros and cons, but there are lots of people who prefer one over the other. But no matter what, they give off a similar effect that has a festive, peaceful feeling.

Christmas trees are a main part of Christmas there are many different kinds some like the ones shown below. According to Christmastreeassociation.com, 76% of people in the us have a Christmas tree. 6th grader Bethany Barkman says that a Christmas tree is a



8th grader Hunter Burbas stated that his family uses a real Christmas tree. He said that they use a real one because they look better than the fake ones do. He feels that reel trees are much better.



6th grader Bethany Barkman said that her family uses a fake Christmas tree. She said that they use a fake tree because they are not messy and they don't need to be watered all the time. She feels like fake trees are better.



7th grader Bridgette Jones said that her family uses a fake Christmas tree. She said that they use fake trees because they don't make a mess and you can reuse them year after year. She feel as fake trees are better.



8th-grade science teacher Ms. Werner said that her family uses a fake Christmas tree. She said they use a fake tree because if they get a real tree her cat will climb it and make a mess. She feels like fake trees are better.



Thanksgiving Gems



Victoria Smith

Thanksgiving is a holiday around the world, most people don't decorate for, but some do. Here are some of the kids around OMS that do decorate.



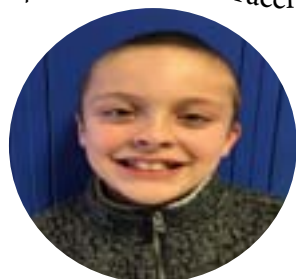
8th grader Ava Darnell

Ava Darnell is an 8th grader here at OMS, and she decorates for Thanksgiving. Ava's family puts up decorations that are simple and shows their Thanksgiving spirit. Ava puts up pumpkins and 4 hay bales on her porch. Ava and her family get started pretty early and put them up at the beginning of November. Since they don't have too many decorations, it takes them about 20 minutes to put everything up. Even though the decorations might not be a big thing for her family, Thanksgiving is, which is the reason Ava's family puts up their decorations in the first place. After Thanksgiving, her decorations come down and they soon will start to fill up their yard with the spirit of Christmas.



7th grader Jack Bracci

Jack Bracci is a 7th grader here at OMS that decorates as well, although Jack only puts up one decoration. Jack puts up one fake turkey on his dining room table in celebration of the holiday. Jack puts up his decoration at the beginning of November. But it only takes him and his family about 2 minutes since it is such a little decoration. The reason Jack does this is simple yet meaningful, it is to show spirit for Thanksgiving. About a week after Thanksgiving, the decorations come down and the jolly holiday Christmas comes right along with more decorations.



6th Grader Dominik Shafer

Dominik Shafer is a 6th grader here at OMS whose family decorates. Putting up a little tablecloth with cute Thanksgiving turkeys on it. Dominik's decorations don't take long to put up, but they do stay up for a while. Dominik's decorations don't come down until December 1st.



Amazing Thanksgiving decorations are coming up. People sometimes go all out on decorations, according to www.statista.com, the average American plans on spending around \$50. 8th grader Isabella Spezia said, "Thanksgiving decorations get me in the mood for Thanksgiving."

Thanksgiving

fun & food

By: Lea Rauh and Lily Nouman



Thanksgiving is on November 28th and there are many things to prepare for. There are lots of amazing food but it is a huge debate on what food is the best. Turkey? Mash potatoes? Stuffing? There are so many foods that are just so good. Another huge debate on Thanksgiving is the traditions that are celebrated. Food and traditions, often, go together on Thanksgiving. Always be Thankful for all that you have and all that is done for you.

To bake apple pies is 8th Grader Michael's Corcoran's family tradition. In a poll of 41 people, 31 people would rather eat apple pie over pumpkin pie, whereas 10 people prefer pumpkin pie over apple. "When my mom makes the pie then it is our tradition. It just wouldn't be Thanksgiving without it. She makes it every year," says Michael.



Many people around the world that celebrate Thanksgiving don't eat the usual turkey and mashed potatoes but instead, have pot pies, or other versions of turkey. Mrs. Gibson, a 7th grade ELA and newspaper teacher says "One year my husband wanted to switch things up, and he smoked our turkey. It was delicious." However, over 86% of people eat the classic turkey on Thanksgiving.



6th grader Kate Datsko's favorite thing about Thanksgiving is spending time with friends and family. A tradition she does on Thanksgiving is watch the Thanksgiving Parade. She does not wish that she could do any other traditions because she feels that she has everything she could ever wish for. She has Thanksgiving at her house and she celebrates with her friends and family.

6th grader Savanna Lepping says she loves most Thanksgiving foods, and that they always taste so much better. "I like the stuffing best because my mom makes it every year." Savanna says that every year, her family always comes over because of how good the food is.



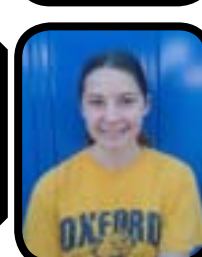
7th grader Jack Bracci's favorite thing about Thanksgiving is getting his entire family together and celebrating together over a big dinner. A tradition he does on Thanksgiving is he stays home and his Grandpa cuts a turkey and they eat at a huge table with his entire family. He celebrates at a different family members house with his friends and family.

7th grader Morgan Kindermann says her favorite Thanksgiving food is stuffing. "My favorite Thanksgiving food is probably stuffing because my mom makes it homeade and puts a really good seasoning on it." She enjoys the Thanksgiving food because there are so many flavors and you can never stop eating.



8th grader Niko Hatzigeorgiou's favorite thing about Thanksgiving is the fact that his birthday is close by, so they also celebrate his birthday on Thanksgiving. A tradition he does on Thanksgiving is that they have a lot of different pies and they always celebrate it at his Grandma's house. He celebrates Thanksgiving with his family.

8th grader Olivia Mihailovich says "My favorite Thanksgiving food is mashed potatoes because they are warm and fluffy and super good." Olivia says that her dad usually makes the food, and she likes it the way it is, and it shouldn't change. He said he usually has the normal Thanksgiving foods, nothing non-traditional.

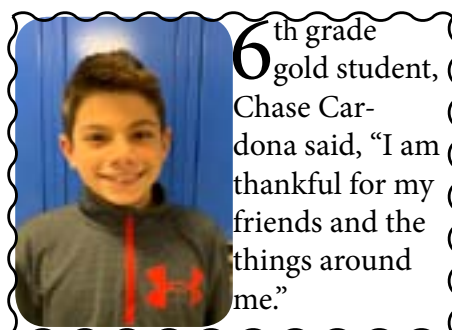




Giving Thanks



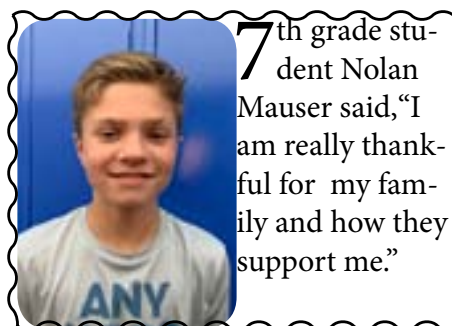
By: Courtney Unruh



6th grade gold student, Chase Cardona said, "I am thankful for my friends and the things around me."



6th grade blue student, Shaley Everhart said, "I am thankful for my friends because they help me through hard times."



7th grade student Nolan Mauser said, "I am really thankful for my family and how they support me."

Being thankful is something we often forget, but when we are reminded we can be thankful for what we have when many others have less. When people are more grateful, their attitude and mind can significantly improve. According to a Harvard study at this time of the year, people tend to be more stressed and have anxiety, but when people think about past memories of their childhood and realize how grateful they are, it is a natural stress reliever. By doing this, the mind and the body can work more productively and be less distracted. This can also improve the relationship with other people.

Another reason to be thankful is that it improves your self-esteem. It can make you think less about what people think and more on what matters with what is happening in your life. Also being more grateful, it can make the chemicals in your brain be more positive. For example, making things you do make you see the glass have full instead of half empty. By being more positive your body language will change and that can make you have more friends by looking more approachable.

In conclusion, being more grateful is not only a great habitat to adapt too, but being more mindful can improve your body and mind for the better. It can help you along the way in life.



8th grade blue student Ian Schneider said, "I am thankful for my friends at school because they treat me really nicely."



8th grade math teacher Mrs. McDonough said, "I am really thankful for my health and a healthy family".



7th grade blue student Samantha Zeiter said, "I am most thankful for my family because they are always there for me."

Thankful 8th graders Abby Snable, Kitty Morris, and Isabella Rushlow, lay down side by side, on the crisp autumn ground, during a monday afternoon. The 3 girls are close friends for 3 years both in and out of school. Isabella Rushlow is thankful for friends and stated, "My friends have guided me through my life and I do not know what I would do without them."



SAME OLD LIONS?

By:
Holden
Jones

The Detroit Lions have annually been one of the most disappointing and unfortunate teams ever, seeming to never find success, even when they possess a team filled with talent and great leaders. This has led fans to believe that the Lions may never actually win any big games, creating the saying "Same old Lions". However, so far this year we have seen one of the most promising starts for this team ever, leading football fans from all over the country to wonder if this is finally the Lions' time. It is possible for the Lions to finally make it into the playoffs, and maybe beyond, if they keep up their impressive performance and continue to get better. Here is what I, as well as many others, believe needs to happen for the Lions to finally have success in the NFL:



Buying NFL merchandise is a frequent event for every football fan, as it can be used to show love and support for the team and who you will be cheering for each week. Buying team fan gear, jerseys, etc. is also crucial for teams, as the Lions alone earn 5.2% (\$101,000,000) from their brand and merchandise sales, according to Forbes. 8th grader and Lions fan Luke Drautz claimed that he buys Lions merchandise to "show everybody that [he] likes the Lions and to support [his] favorite team."

Figure out the Run Game:

Possibly the most crucial part of their game that needs to be developed is the Lions' run game. Kerryon Johnson is a very young and talented running-back, but so far this year he hasn't seemed to be able to find his feet, rushing for only 285 yards in the first 5 games. While the pass game has been great so far, once a team figures out that you can only pass they will do everything they can to stop any passes attempted, since we cannot run to counter their defense. The run game opens up the pass game, and without a run game to take time off the clock and give us a better chance to throw the ball, the Detroit offense will fall flat.

Make the Defensive Line Live up to Expectations:

During the offseason there was nothing more hyped up about the Lions than their defensive lines. Led by the experienced star Damon "Snacks" Harrison and newly acquired stud Patriots pass-rusher Trey Flowers, this line was supposed to be electric, putting constant pressure on the quarterback and shutting down the opposing run game. However, this line has, so far, been very lackluster throughout the season. Even if Detroit rarely attempts to overload the O-line with a blitz, this elite group of men should be able to handle the run and put pressure on the quarterback themselves. If the Lions defense will continue to have success, they must figure out how to get this defensive line to where it was expected to be.



If there is one thing in the NFL that is crucial toward success, it is that teams need to score, especially when they enter the redzone (the space in between the 20 yard line and the goal line). While I did not outline it as a major problem with the Lions, it is something they have struggled with. 8th grader Jadon Olafsson suggested that "instead of running the ball [the Lions] should use stars like Marvin Jones or Kenny Golladay."

The Team gets (and stays) Healthy:

Injuries have plagued the Lions, causing Matthew Stafford, Kerryon Johnson, Da'Shawn Hand, Darius Slay, and many others to sit out games, completely crippling their team. All of these players are hugely talented and crucial to our success, and without them the Lions' offensive and defensive units just aren't the same. We saw this very clearly during week 10, when Stafford was taken out due to a back injury and Jeff Driskel was forced to start. The Detroit offense was a shell of its former self, posting only 1 touchdown and two field goals. This team needs to be at 100% to have any success against opposing teams. Without its stars, the Lions' entire gameplan fails, along with their season.

Dominate the NFC North:

It is finally undoubtable—the NFC North is the best division in the NFL, filled with 4 teams with the potential to reach the playoffs. The Green Bay Packers, Chicago Bears, and Minnesota Vikings are all extremely talented and competitive teams—all fighting for their spot in the playoffs. This means that the Lions are going to have to face some fierce competition this year, having to play each of these teams twice. To prove that they deserve a spot in the playoffs, the Lions must win almost all of these games, proving themselves to be the best team in the NFC North. This will quite possibly be the most difficult part of the Lions' road to the playoffs, as shown in their first game against the Packers where Aaron Rodgers came back to win the game, 23-22. However, this isn't an impossible feat as the Lions were only one unfortunate and terrible call from winning their first game against an NFC rival, the Green Bay Packers. All in all, the Lions are going to have to work hard to shut down the several star players present on the 3 opposing NFC North teams.



Everyone has a favorite player in the NFL. Whether you decide yours by popularity, success, skill, or potential, everyone finds that one player that they hope will succeed more than anyone else in the league. While players like Patrick Mahomes, Tom Brady, and Odell Beckham Jr. are often considered to be some of the more popular players in the league, many people decide their favorite player based on who plays for their team. 6th grader Tommy Candella claimed, "My favorite player is Kerryon Johnson, since he has been really good and helped the Lions a lot."



Tuning into a Lions' game is a Sunday tradition for many, as it's a time when fans finally get to watch their team play and compete against the other teams in the NFL. 7th grader Alex Aldridge said that he watches the Lions play every Sunday with his dad and claimed that he really enjoys watching them "because [the Lions] can always pull something off, whether it's good or bad, and that makes the games really fun to watch."



by: Evelyn Sawdon

Powderpuff



Powderpuff is a game where girls play football and boys cheerlead. A game that is opposite to the stereotypical, everyday thing you see. How many successful girl football players do you see? Not very many. That's why powderpuff is so great. It gives girls the chance to see if they like football without having to do it for a long season, and lets them have just fun. This is the same with the boys cheerleading. They get to have fun and cheer for the girls. This game is a great time and I think, along with many others, that Oxford Middle School should have a powderpuff game.



Tossing a football around, 8th graders Paige Rushlow and Madison Mauser were enjoying a friendly game of catch at school. After polling a few 7th and 8th grade classes, --- girls would participate in powderpuff. "I feel that a powderpuff game would be fun," said Paige Rushlow.

6th grader Maia Brevik explained, "there should be a powderpuff game at OMS because although girls are aloud on the football team, it still isn't the same." She also said, "I would definitely not play in it because I don't like football even though it is a good idea."

7th grader Ma-dylynn Heller said, "It would be a great opportunity to have a powderpuff game at OMS because not that many people get the opportunity to go to the one at the high school." She also commented, "All grades should get a chance to play."

8th grader Emily Weaver commented, "Yes, there should be a powder puff game at OMS because it would just be a fun game for us girls to play." She also said, "There should be both guys cheerleading and girls football so we can have people cheering us on through the game."



BOYS VOLLEYBALL?

By: Anika Erskine

Oxford Middle School provides inclusive sports for both genders. Such as track, cross country, basketball, football, and even wrestling. One of the sports OMS does not provide for boys is, a volleyball team. Many OMS boys wish we had a team for them to try out. If OMS had added a volleyball team many boys would be much happier, and would benefit from having a boys team.



8th grade gold student Halena Knight stated "I think it would be good to have a boys volleyball team, because the girls can join the boys wrestling and football team, while boys can't join the girls volleyball team." She says, "The boys and girls team should be combined because it would be fun to have a mix because I am friends with a lot of

"Serve Strong.
Dig Fierce.
Spike hard."
-Anonymous

8th grade gold student Will Whitlatch said, "We should have a boys and girls team because it is not fair that girls can join the boys football team and wrestling team, but we can't join the volleyball team." He does not think the teams would be fair if they were to be combined though.



7th grade gold student Zach Majewski says, he thinks "Yes, because then the boys can play if they want." Zach thinks that if the teams were to be combined girl and boy they would not be as fair.

7th grade gold student Jerzie Timsman said "Yes, because the girls have a team." She says "I don't think the teams should be combined because when it comes to sports we know boys are more competitive."

At OMS gym, David Swoish is practicing bumping the ball. Three different classes had been surveyed, and 91% think that there should be a boys volleyball team. "There



should be a boys volleyball team because it would be fun and we could hang with friends," says (Swoish)



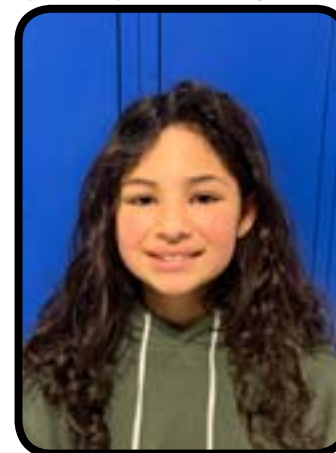
SOCCER TEAM AT OMS?



Soccer is a truly diverse and fun sport! Soccer is a popular sport that is played by both girls and boys and can either be played as a professional sport or just for fun! Unlike football or baseball, soccer is international and is played with mainly your feet. Soccer is “a game played by two teams of eleven players with a round ball that may not be touched with the hands or arms during play except by the goalkeepers. The object of the game is to score goals by kicking or heading the soccer ball into the opponents’ goal” (Oxford Dictionary). Soccer builds lots of leg strength and endurance, and requires a lot of feet coordination that can be built overtime! So why doesn’t OMS have a soccer team?

6th grader Gabriella Miranda thinks that there should be an OMS soccer because a lot of people that like soccer and it can give kids a chance to interact. She also thinks that there should be separate boys and girls teams because boys can play rougher than girls sometimes, and girls like to interact more. Gabriella would try out for the soccer team because she likes soccer and she thinks that it would be a great opportunity to communicate with new people, and it would be good exercise. She has been doing soccer for 5 years. When asked who she thought would make a good coach, Gabriella responded with “Mr. McDonald because he is a track coach so he has experience.”

By: Ashlynn Redhage



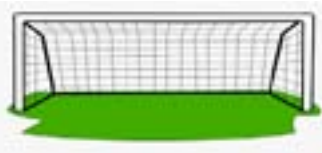
7th grader Avery Bower thinks that there should be an OMS soccer team because she thinks that it would be fun. She also thinks that there should be a separate boys and girls team. Avery would try out for the team because it would be important to her because it is for the school. She has played soccer for four years, and thinks that it is a little bit weird that our school does not have a soccer team. When asked who she thought would make a good soccer coach, Avery responded with “Mr. Thaler because he coaches soccer at the high school.”



8th grader Kitty Morris thinks that there should be an OMS soccer team, because we have all other sports except soccer. She thinks that there should be both a girls and boys team. Kitty would try out for the soccer team because she has been playing soccer for 7-8 years, and enjoys playing soccer because it’s a sport that involves mostly just your feet. She thinks that it is unfair that there are so many other sports at OMS and not soccer. “Mr. Thaler should be the soccer coach because he is already the coach for the high school,” says Kitty.



With cool temperatures on their way and soccer on their minds, Hunter Burbas and Julian Mayin wait for the next soccer season to start. Hunter has been playing soccer for 7 years. “I like playing soccer because it is interesting and fun.”



Out of 46 kids out, 12 would try out for a soccer team at OMS



BOYS BASKETBALL

Basketball is played world wide, almost every middle school in the country has a basketball team as do we, oxford middle school has a great football team, volleyball team, track team and a great basketball team. We do a lot of sports here and most of our basketball players are dual sports players, they could run cross country the go home change and shoot some hoops, they already have a lot on their plate and now adding basketball in my opinion they are true heroes.

8 Chuck Miconi usually plays center because he says "I'm the tallest on the team". Chuck likes to play because "I get to hang out with my friends and it's fun". When asked why he plays the support he says "because my height is good for the sport". Chuck likes his uniforms but there old he say and they should get new ones, he wouldn't change a thing about basketball except how many people could play at a time.



8 Micheal Cass mainly plays center on the basketball team, Micheal thinks basketball is fun because we get to run up and down the courts and is very good conditioning". We asked Michael if he likes his uniforms and why and he responded with "Its ok I guess, we gotta wear something on the court" Michael would also change nothing for basketball season because there's nothing to be changed.



8 Max Mardson plays the position point guard on the basketball team and sometimes shooting guard. When asked why max plays basketball he responded "It's entertaining and fun, I just enjoy it". Max would not change anything about the basketball season and everything that comes with it.

: Micheal Cass, max marsden, chuck miconi, joey bienash and alex mcarthur, all teammates last year for the basketball season michael said that "basketball was fun and I would never change a thing" once he said that they all agreed. Basketball has 825 million fans in the world but there are over 1,000 people in the school and they are fans of our oxford wildcats basketball team.

8 Jay Cady plays multiple positions on his team, but he usually plays the four or three but he prefers the four. When asked if jay liked his uniform he answered "I don't mind our uniform I think it could be improved but the uniforms not that bad as the girls uniforms". This time when we asked a basketball player what they would change about the basketball season he said "I would change how long we practice because, after a while going for two hours a day get tiring".

LIGHTS...CAMERA...ACTION

By:
Brooke Mery



At the high school, Mr. Gray's Drama Club is performing "Showdown at Palm Tree Pines." The leads are Sean Wilson as Donny, Grace Morgan as Flo, Caroline Erskine as Mitzi, and Stephen Bilbey as Jerry. The play would be at Oxford High School January 15-16 starting at 7:01. "I am really looking for the play this year. I think it's going to be really fun," explained Caroline Erskine in 8th grade.

Showdown at Palm Tree Pines takes place at a retirement home ran by Flo and Donny until their friends Mitzi and Jerry came into town and give ideas on how to run it. Flo and Donny don't want to change a thing about the retirement home. The seniors started to chose sides and every bingo game there was a debate if they were going to change or not. Soon there will be a bigger threat entering the retirement home and they are going to have to work together to stop it. To out how it ends, you'll have come checkout the preformances on January 15-16 at 7:01.



Mr. Gray started teaching in Oxford in 2001 and helped out the previous teacher who ran the Drama Club for a few years and he took over in 2004. "My favorite part of the Drama Club is that I get to work with awesome students who are so excited about acting and excited about trying new things in front of people and building set." When asked if he would rather be on stage or back stage he said "I've only ever been good at being on stage. I would much rather be an actor on stage, I'm like Tinkerbell I live for the applause."



Laura Morgan, 7th grader's, favorite part of Drama Club is when people get up in front of the class and play improve games. Laura got the principal role as Hope and she says she thinks she's a fun character to play. Last year, she was in the Drama Club play as an ensemble, when people are in the back acting out the scene to make it seem more real. "I am going to do Drama Club next year because it's a lot of fun."



Abby's Hodder, 8th grader's, favorite part of Drama Club is the improve games because it is fun to play and see how people perform their roles. "I am hoping to become crew chief for this year's play." Last year she helped make the props for "That's Not How I Remember It". She will be doing Drama Club in high school.



Extra Art



By Hayley-Kate Nelms



Excited kids run into room 236 every other Monday at 2:35 to participate in Art Club. About 40-50 students go to Art Club every week and use all kinds of materials to make beautiful art. "I kinda like pastel. I kinda like the way it flows together with each other," says 6th grader Vanessa Escamilla.

Do you like drawing, painting, or just art in general? If so, then Art Club is for you! Every first and third Monday, Ms. McNeill hosts Art Club in Room 236. The club is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders alike. It goes from 2:35 pm to 4:20 pm. It is drop-in, so if you need to come in later or leave early--no problem! Just remember to sign out.

For the first part of art club, you get to do whatever you want. You're free to draw, paint, or do pretty much anything art related to your heart's content. For the second part, there is a planned activity. Each year the club spray paints t-shirts for the group photos. Other times participants do string art, paint pumpkins, do watercolors, and learn art skills. You aren't required to do the activity, but it's open to anyone who wants to.

Right now Art Club is only twice a month, but some people might want that to change. Ava Terach, a 7th grader, stated, "I think it should be more than twice a month because I guess it doesn't feel like it's very often and it's something that a lot of people look forward to" If a kid is a music student, but also really likes art, they aren't able to take an art class in school. Art Club allows students like that to be able to express themselves with art in a school environment. It also gives the opportunity for kids to make new friends with the same common interest. "I really like to draw things and hang out with friends," said 8th grader Brayden Kuhl.

6th grader

Vanessa Escamilla stated, "I would recommend [Art Club] to everyone because if you especially like drawing and you're creative, you can get to express it instead of just drawing or doodling in class."



"String art, paint pumpkins, do watercolors, and learn art skills."

7th grader

Ava Tarach said, "I would [recommend Art Club] because whether you're good at art or have already done it for a while, you can keep practicing your skills or you can learn new skills. Over all, it's just a fun activity."

8th grader

Brayden Kuhl said, "I would [recommend Art Club] because it's a good place to go and hang out with friends."



SAILING THROUGH THE SEMESTER

By: Ava Bailey

Semester at Sea is a cruise ship that travels around the globe, with students learning from visiting different locations along the way. During the 15 weeks that the ship sails, students are expected to learn a full college semester course of studies. The cost of this lifetime experience is 20,000 dollars, which pays for tuition, room, board, and stops at different locations. Students choose when they want to go and the destinations are endless. This ideal learning adventure is possible for any student when they reach college, but it all comes down to if they are ready to alter their lifestyle to living on a cruise ship for 105 days.

8th grader Ean Tiffin would not enjoy attending the Semester at Sea program. He believes that there are lots of possible dangers that could pop up while traveling on the cruise ship. "I wouldn't do it because there is a chance that I could get hurt, or possibly die," states Tiffin.



7th grader Ella Bailey believes that it would be beneficial to study abroad on the ship. Getting to experience different cultures is something she's always desired to do. "Yeah," Bailey replied, "it would be a new learning mindset for me and I would get to find out more about the world."

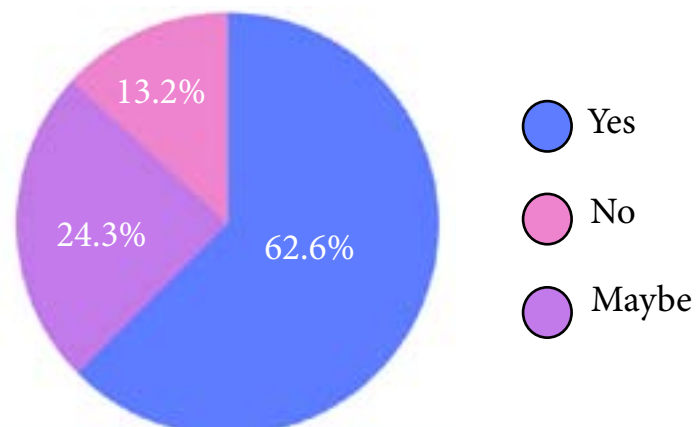


6th grader Mylie Grundner would most definitely pay to ride on the cruise ship. Mylie stated, "Of course I would do that because I would get to discover interesting things everyday. Also, I would get to learn school subjects on a cruise ship for a whole semester."



Crashing waves and blue ripples in the ocean are a part of something that students get to enjoy on the Semester at Sea cruise ships. The program lasts for 105 days, explores 12 cities, and offers students 15 credits for the course. "I'm just thankful that I've lived long enough to climb to the top of the Leaning Tower of Pisa," stated Ruby Koerper, on the Semester at Sea website, after her experience in the Fall 2000 trip.

Would You Want to Travel Abroad on a Semester at Sea Cruise Ship?



The students who answered with "no" and "maybe" were mostly sixth graders. Overall, I interviewed 90 students to get these results.

Connecting in the Curriculum

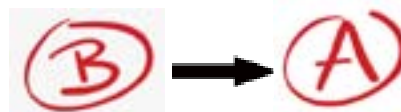
By: Landen Henery



To divide up the Web Leaders, they are split into 2 advisories: Mr. Smokovitz's (top) and Mrs. Werner's (bottom). There are over 50 WEB Leaders, who rotate leading groups of 5-10 kids on select Tuesdays and Thursdays. The leaders have fun leading the games too, with one saying, "It's really fun to lead the games. You get to interact with lots of people."

At Oxford Middle School, many students have experienced Oxford Odyssey when half the students in each advisory go down to the gym based on last name. They do activities such as tug-of-war, 3-point competitions, the shoe toss and relay races. The other half of the students stay in the classroom and work on homework and reviewing grades.

"It's a great opportunity for having fun and improving academically. I'm excited for Odyssey this year." -Mr. Smokovitz



6th grader Nathaniel Roberts thinks that Oxford Odyssey is very fun. Roberts likes the activities that are played in Oxford Odyssey because it gives him a break from school and is fun to do. He hasn't heard about Odyssey from previous years, but has had a good first impression.



8th grade WEB Leader Brady Warman enjoys being a leader for Oxford Odyssey. He likes that this year has been really good compared to previous years. Warman believes it might be because the students lead Odyssey, while in previous years, it has been staff.

8th grade teacher and leader of the WEB Leaders Mr. Smokovitz has observed all of the Oxford Odysseys since the beginning. He says that this year has been a little better because the students lead, which gives students experience leading. He thinks the students like the new activities that use teamwork. Mr. Smokovitz stated that there was sort of a hidden purpose to Odyssey. "On one hand, you have a time where students go down to the gym and have a good time," Mr. Smoky explained, "but on the other hand, it separates the students so the teachers can work with the students to improve their grades."

7th grader Logan Sweeney likes Oxford Odyssey because it gives him a chance to hang out with people in the gym. "There really are no bad parts. It's just fun to go and hang out down there," Sweeney stated. Sweeney also said that the leaders have been nice and fun to be around.

Snuggle Up

By Lucinda Haselton

Good sleep and pleasant dreams can lead to a good morning and rest of the day. In the night, you have 5 to 7 dreams, one for every time you go through a sleep cycle, although, you forget most of them. Abbey Hodder says “[I] sometimes [remember my dreams], if they’re very catastrophic dreams.”

Abbey Hodder, 8th grader, usually goes to bed around 9 to 10, 11 to 12 on weekends. “I wake up around 5:30 [on weekdays]. Weekends I wake up around 8 or 9.”

Jaylen Wylie, 7th grader, goes to bed at about 1am and gets up at 12 on weekends. He falls asleep at 9 and wakes up at 5:30 for school.

Miley Pandrak, 6th grader, goes to sleep at 9 on school nights and gets up at 5:45 while on weekends, she goes to sleep whenever she feels like it and wakes up near noon and feels very well rested.

Sleeping is something almost everyone does. Whether you go to sleep at a nice 9:30 or at 1 in the morning and wake up at 7 or noon, everyone sleeps. Sleeping can be very important to your health, and keep you awake and active throughout the day, but if you skip out on sleep, it can have consequences.

At night, the brain produces melatonin. Melatonin is a chemical that makes you tired. With adults, the brain releases melatonin near 9pm while in teenage years, the brain produces melatonin closer to 11pm, meaning teens tend to fall asleep much later than adults.

When sleeping, the body rests, repairs blood vessels and the heart, and releases important hormones. Scientists recommend about 8 to 10 hours of sleep for teenagers while most get in closer to 7 1/2. This lost sleep could lead to trouble concentrating, moodiness, trouble staying awake, and falling grades.

Teens also tend to sleep in later on weekends than on weekdays, which affects their internal clock and hurts the quality of their sleep. This can be caused by school making them wake up at 6:30 and their bodies making them fall asleep at 11.



What the Holidays Mean to Us...



Ava Bailey!!!



Coarse branches enclose the delicate ornament hung on the festive tree for the upcoming holiday. During the winter season, the Baileys' annually unpack 20 storage bins that include a mixture of colorful bulbs and beaming lights. "Decorating the house for Christmas makes me feel nostalgic and I begin to remember the holiday traditions that I celebrated with my family growing up as a child," noted Jennifer Bailey.



Hayley-Kate Nelms!!



Festive decorations are a must have for families across the United States during the Christmas season. According to businessinsider.com, in 2011, Americans spent 6 billion dollars on Christmas decorations. "My family just reuses decorations every year, adding maybe one or two trinkets each year," said Lucinda Haselton.



Madison Mauser!



Bright lights on a Christmas trees can cause anyone to reminisce about the wonderful memories they have made during the holiday season. More than 95 million U.S. households celebrate the holiday by displaying a Christmas tree, according to the eighth annual Christmas tree survey from the American Christmas Tree Association (ACTA) conducted by Nielsen. "Putting up the Christmas tree every year always manages to make me smile. I couldn't imagine Christmas without one" says Deanece Mauser.

Paige Rushlow

HONORABLE MENTION



Red and white stockings are hung with care as the Rushlow family gets ready for the holidays. Ready to be filled with goodies and be stared at constantly, the stockings are suspended above the warm fireplace. "I love hanging up stockings, because it reminds me of the joy of Christmas and how fast its arriving," according to Bella Rushlow.

Courtney Unruh

HONORABLE MENTION



Bright Christmas lights surround the red snowflake blanket on a snowy afternoon, providing the spirit of Christmas at Courtney Unruhs home while setting up her Christmas tree. This one of five strings of lights put on the Christmas tree. "Putting up lights reminds me that Christmas is just around the corner" stated Ava Bailey.

What the Holidays

Mean to Us...



Landen Henery



Delicious Thanksgiving dinner, including turkey, rolls, potatoes, and sometimes souffle is eaten by families across America to celebrate. An average person eats 3,000 calories for Thanksgiving. "I like Thanksgiving. I like to eat food with my family." 8th grader Matthew Barkman states.

Jenna Christoff



Green sparkling lights radiate the Christmas spirit at High View Dr on December 4th as residents drive by. Each year, these green lights can be found, and here they stand for more than 6 years. "Seeing those lights every year makes you think about the time dwindling down to Christmas and how much families look forward to it. It makes you appreciate who put up the lights," says Jessica Christoff.

Sami Yocum



For the holiday season everyone enjoys a good sleigh ride in the icy snow, but in this picture it shows a lone sleigh on a carpeted floor rather than the field of snow.

Brooke Mery



Snowy days are coming, and this means that it's time to put up Christmas decorations. Even though Christmas is on the 25 of December, people go all out when it's time to decorate. "My family decorates our house for Christmas every year and put up a lot of lights." explains 8th grader Aubrey Mery.

Lucinda Haselton



Large companies sometimes like to theme for the season. With customers spending around a thousand dollars on average for Christmas, the holiday is a big time for companies to make sales and by theming for the holidays, the customers might be more likely to buy presents. "I like it when companies have festive boxes. It makes me feel happy and more in the holiday spirit," stated Hayley-Kate Nelms.

Gabriela Wait



Colorful bows everywhere catching the guests eyes. snow falling outside as everyone in the Wait family was enjoying the decore of their house, Gabi and her mom Erica proud of what they did. "you did amazing this year!" says Gabi's Uncle Mark or Erica's brother. The girls smile happy, knowing there not the only ones enjoying the look of the house. Christmas was in the air and everyone could feel the joy as they all talked and smiled happily.

Lily Nouman



Cold winter days make for the perfect time to set up your christmas tree. Decorating with ornaments, tinsil, a star, and so much more. "It is always so much fun pulling out the christmas tree and watchinging the lights sparkle while putting on your favorite ornaments." says Paige Nouman. Some say it's the presents, some say its the food, but many people also think that putting up your favorite ornament is very special. Whether it's a snowman, a symbol, or a glass pair of ballet shoes, everyone has that one ornament that they love.

Maya Derey

Festive colored christmas lights on a christmas tree is what brings joy to the holidays. According to [theweek.com](https://www.theweek.com), "Nearly 150 million christmas light sets are sold a year during the festive season". Cameron Derey says, "that he is very excited about the christmas tree lights".

**John Hulswit**

The christmas tree is a decorative must have for the holidays, but it also represents something very meaningful. According to <https://www.britanica.com/story/how-did-the-tradition-of-christmas-trees-start>, "evergreen trees became part of Christian rites in Germany, and in the Middle Ages "paradise trees" began to appear there. Meant to represent the Garden of Eden, these evergreen trees were hung with apples and displayed in homes on December 24, the religious feast day of Adam and Eve. Other decorations were added—Martin Luther reportedly first hung lighted candles on a tree in the 16th century—and paradise trees evolved into Christmas trees." Christmas trees are displayed and decorated all around the world. Without this colorful, lively addition to your living room, it wouldn't truly feel like Christmas. No words can describe how magical a bright, colorful christmas tree brightens up the holidays.

**Delaney Payne**

The coldness of the winter is coming and so is Christmas time, many are hoping for a white Christmas, but sadly we live in Michigan so that's unpredictable but Morgan Haynes says "She wants a white christmas but not a lot of snow so she can't go outside with her family and enjoy it."

Victoria Smith

Twinkling Christmas lights fill up the living room, bringing joy among many families. Around 20-30 million Christmas trees are sold each year, really showing how many families care about the holiday. I put my Christmas tree up every year, and enjoy the time it takes. "Christmas is my favorite holiday because the music is amazing and the smell of Christmas trees bring me joy." Said Ava Darnell.

Morgan Haynes

CHRISTMAS TIME. Christmas is coming soon and that means lots and lots of snow although November didnt have alot of snow, December as been getting some and we are all hoping that we get a white christmas. "I really hope that we get some snow so that me and my family can make snowman." Said 8th grader Delaney Payne".

Sarah Spearing

Calm snow falling from the sky throughout the day often signifies the beginning of the main winter holiday that is Christmas, bringing the joy and spirit of Christmas to most people. According to [Weatherbug.com](https://www.weatherbug.com), the top 3 favorite things about winter are: building a snowman, making Christmas cookies, and bundling up for the cold weather. John Hulswit says, "My favorite thing about winter is Christmas because it is fun to be friends and family. I also like eating candy and Christmas treats because they are good."

Isabella Spezia

Hiking the glacier in Iceland in October was very cold. It was about 37 degrees and we were walking on ice. I said "I never am going to hike a glacier again that is the worst thing ever because that it so hard and I felt like I was going to fall the whole time".

Grace Morgan

White fluffy snow covers the front yard, the cause of the first snow day of the year. After 11 inches of snow fell in Oxford Township, the district canceled school at four o'clock in the morning on Tuesday, November 12th. "It was an amazing surprise to wake up to a snow day," explains Georgia Harrell, 8th grader.

Taylor Derey



Magic, sparkles, and winter nights hold a cherishing memory of the nutcracker and his soldiers that will awaken on Christmas Eve. The twinkling of the dazzling lights that hold magical occurrences every December 24th, the eve before Christmas. The Nutcracker retells, "This is indeed a place where magic happens."



Ellie Geiselman

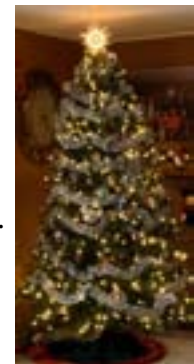


Colorful lights sparkling on the green Christmas tree represent the start of the Christmas season in many homes. According to USDA.gov approximately 20 million Christmas trees are bought each year in the U.S. "I love decorating the Christmas tree each year because it is something to do with my family and it gets me into the holiday spirit said 6th grader Grace Gieselman."

*What the Holidays
Mean to Us...*

Anika Erskine

White lights shining so bright bring joy to each and everyone. The estimated guess of light that are bought each year are more than 150 million sets of lights and more than 80 million houses are decorated with lights. "Decorating for Christmas brings me joy because it brings back lots of memories"



Lea Rauh

To decorate gingerbread houses with her cousins, Kayla is filled with excitement to see what she can make.



According to www.pbs.org, gingerbread houses have been being made since 2400 BC. "I love making and decorating gingerbread houses with my older cousins because we always have so much fun and have an amazing time," says Kayla.

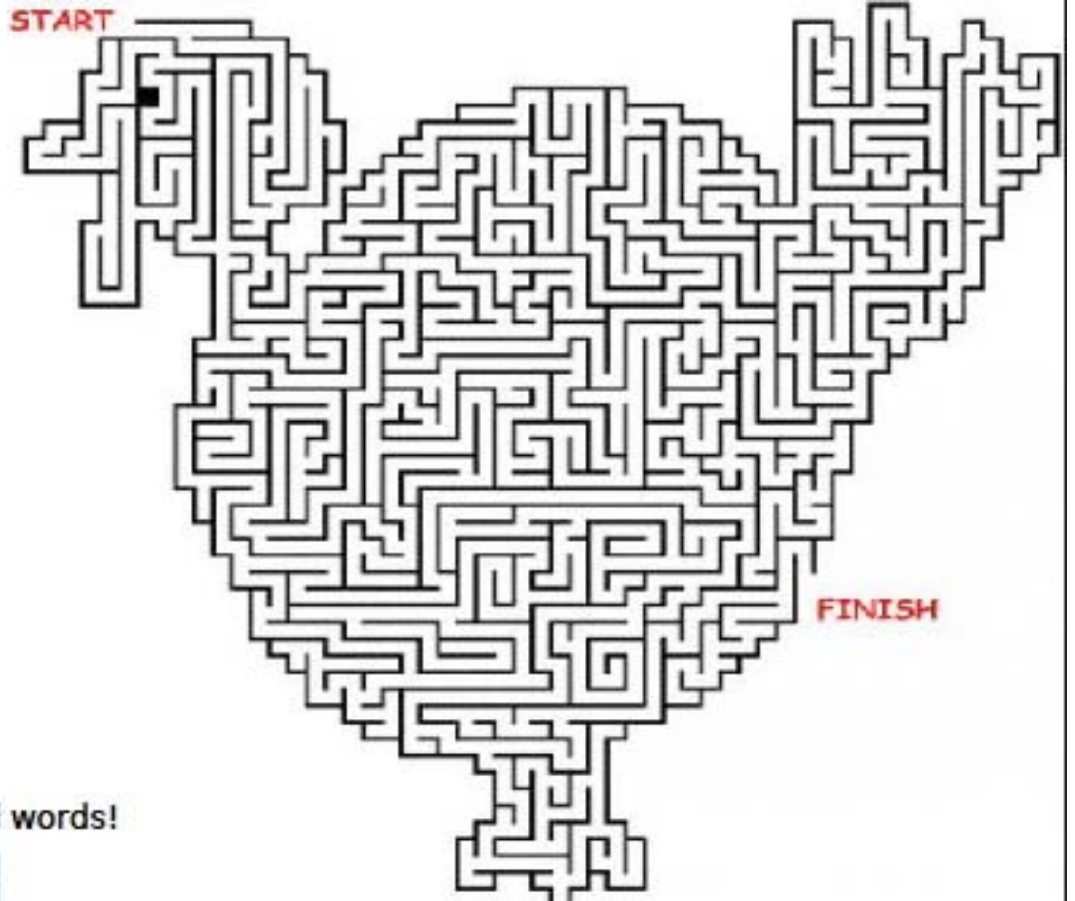
Matthew Barkman



Jingle bells, cookies, and presents. Christmas is a holiday celebrated by many people around the world. Out of it 195 countries, Christmas is celebrated in 156 of them according to libraryspot.com. It brings many families that may live far away from each other together. 8th grade Science teacher Ms. Werner says that Christmas is her favorite time of year.



Thanksgiving
www.DailyMesses.com



Unscramble these Thanksgiving themed words!

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YRKTEU

YVGAR

TAEWTL

USIFGFTN

AGBEESNENR

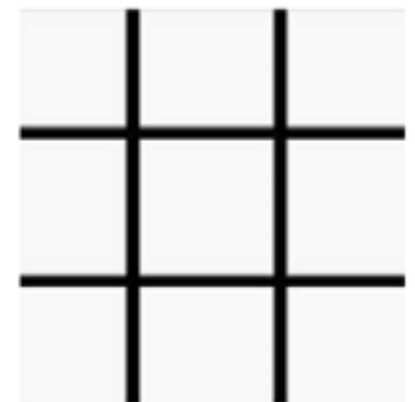
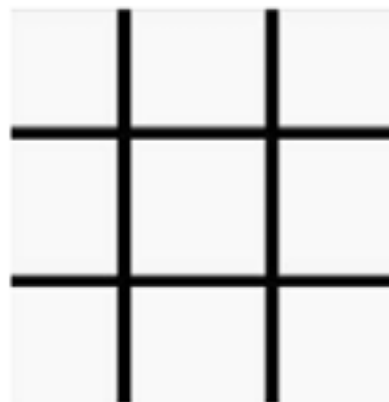
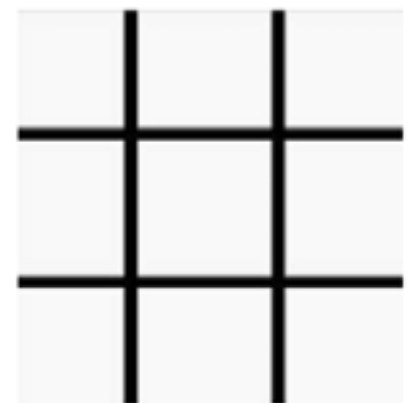
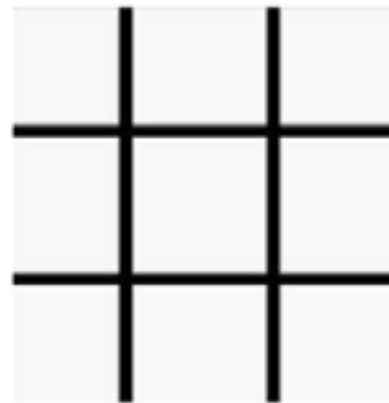
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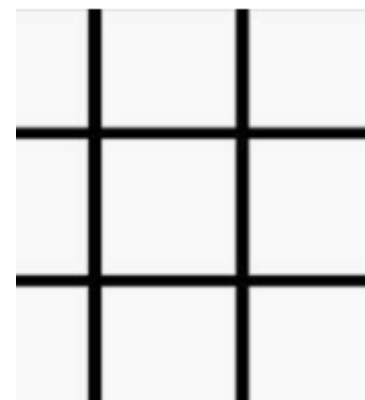
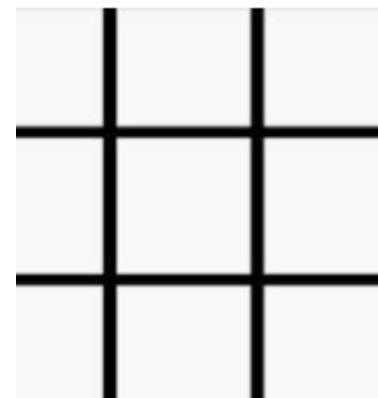
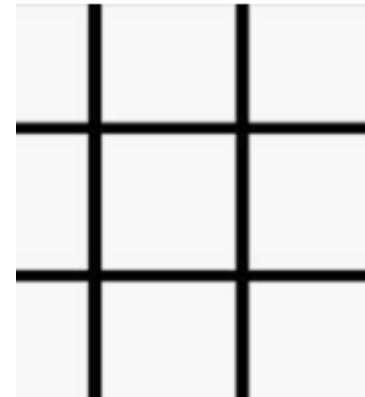
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CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



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| CELEBRATE | STOCKING | GREETINGS | NORTHPOLE |
| CHIMNEY | TREE | HOLIDAY | REINDEER |
| CHRISTMAS | WREATH | JOLLY | |

