



Boys Basketball

By: Jacob L

The gymnasium was buzzing on December 2nd as the crowd packed in to watch the Hornets take on St. Peters for their last home game of 2011. The 8th grade team had full support from the St. Pat's fans which even included a large group of freshman boys and girls, returning to catch the game and cheer on their Alma mater. The first quarter ended with a score of 12-8 with St. Peters ahead. The Boys battled for another 3 quarters showing excellent skills and perfect teamwork. The final score was 42-52 in favor of St. Peters which didn't matter to our fans, for the spirit of St. Patrick school was in the gym that night. A round of applause for the Team which included coaches H., Ambrose, Neville and S. along with players Nick F., Brock A., Mark S., Matt H., Matt S., Ethan C., Tommy H., Fletcher N., John C., and Michael R. We will miss you next year. Let's not forget the annual Bosnak Tournament which was played by the 5th and 6th grade boys on Dec 15-17th. Both of our teams, Green and White, showed great effort and sportsmanship. Many thanks should be given to the Knights of Columbus for their continued support. And lastly, thanks to Mrs. Bosnak for taking time to watch our games. During the Christmas break the 6th grade green and white team participated in the Sean M. tournament at St. Mary School in Buffalo Grove. January is the final month for boys basketball. The St. Lucy's- Dan B. tournament for 5th, 6th, and 7th grade boys and girls, lasts from January 3rd -15th, and the 7th -8th grade KOC tournament from Jan 19th -22nd . For any of you who have not had a chance to support your home team, there is still time! Just look on the St. Patrick's school calendar for upcoming tournament schedules. **Go Hornets!!!**



Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon! (Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!)

By: Isa A.

This Christmas Season my family and I got to experience the holidays in a completely different country, the Philippines. The moment we got off the plane we noticed Christmas decorations everywhere (such as lanterns, Christmas lights, a few fake Santas, and well-lit Churches and chapels). Even inside the malls there are decorations, and one mall had employees that were dressed as elves.

Since the Philippines have mostly Catholics and Christian families, most people try to attend 4 AM Mass daily for nine days in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary in anticipation for Christmas, which is called Simbang Gabi. During Simbang Gabi the Church was so full of parishioners, some people were even standing outside the church building. They can enjoy puto-bong-bong (steamed rice cakes) and tea on the way home. The last day of Simbang Gabi, Christmas Eve, is called Misa de Gallo, meaning "Rooster's Mass".

Since we were in a small town we did not have expensive gifts, instead we exchanged gifts with relatives. On Christmas Day, our parents, aunts, and uncles gave money (pesos) to children in the neighborhood, friends, and relatives. There were big feasts and celebrations everywhere. The feasts had a variety of foods that family enjoyed together as they gather on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. There was more food than anybody can eat and take home.

We were able to observe how to roast lechon (roasted pig) and enjoyed eating it. The celebration continued for a few more days after Christmas including family reunions and fiestas. Most people launched fireworks on New Year's Eve as well. It was an amazing experience.

Recipes for Christmastime
By: Stephanie S. and Allison B.

Don't have something to bring to Christmas dinner this year? Looking for a fun way to celebrate your Christmas cheer? Want something different than the usual Christmas desserts? Want to give a friend or family a tasty gift? Then, try making these simple treats to bring a little jolliness in to the holidays. The first recipe is a simple but delicious treat that gives you a little bit of sweet and salty. You will need red and green M&Ms, small pretzel rings, and milk chocolate Hersey Kisses. First, place the pretzel rings on a greased baking sheet with a Hersey Kiss in the center of each of them. Then, bake them at 275°F for 2-3 minutes or until the chocolate is soft. Take them out of the oven. Next, place a single red or green M&M on top of each Hersey Kiss so the chocolate fills the pretzel ring. Refrigerate them for 5-10 minutes or until the chocolate is firm. The next recipe which is peppermint bark is for all the peppermint-lovers who enjoy the holidays. You will need candy canes, white chocolate, and peppermint flavorings (optional). First, you will need to crush your candy canes in to small pieces. The best way to do this is to put them into a plastic bag and crush them with a rolling pin or other hard object. Next, melt the white chocolate in a double boiler. Then, combine the candy cane chunks with the melted white chocolate (add peppermint flavoring at this time if desired). Now, pour the mixture onto a baking sheet layered with parchment or waxed paper. Then, place the pan in the refrigerator for 45 minutes or until firm. Finally, remove the bark for the baking sheet and break in to pieces. These recipes are good for the holidays, but more importantly for sharing with others. A simple plate or bag of chocolate pretzel rings or peppermint bark can really make somebody's holiday special.



Save the fur
by:Lexie A.



Did everybody hear? Polar bears are extinct. We need to find a way to help them! Many companies such as Dawn dish soap and Coke are taking a step to help these furry animals. Since polar bears are right next to pandas on the endangered list it is our job to help them get off of it. Here are some things you should know about polar bears. They are the world's largest carnivore, their paws can be 12 inches long, also they can swim at up to 6 miles per hour, Wow that's fast! Here are some Arctic definitions. Cub-a baby polar bear, Den-a hole dug under some snow where a cub is born, Prey-a animal hunted by another for food, Ice Floe-a large chunk of floating ice, Pack Ice-a area where pieces of ice float close to together in the sea. When cubs are born they usually weigh 21 ounces (600 grams). The first people to witness these amazing animals were the Nanak, they lived on the Canadian tundra, sadly after years with these magnificent animals there was a food loss of other sea animals and the Nanak started hunting all of the polar bears. To catch prey they also have amazing senses to catch food they need a good sense of smell they can smell their food from 32 kilometers away (20 miles)! Polar bears also have amazing vision even though they can't see like we do they see colors but only red, green, yellow, blue, and orange. This vision helps them sneak up and kill their prey and get fed for the night. Save the fur everybody!



The traditionally decorated church was filled with many people.

Simbang Gabi
By Izzy C

Simbang Gabi is one of the Filipino traditions that take place during the Christmas season. The Simbang Gabi is a total of nine Masses held each of the nine days before Christmas Eve. The Masses were held at St. Paul the Apostle, St. Joseph, St. Anastasia, Our Lady of Humility, Most Blessed Trinity (Immaculate Conception), St. Dismas, St. Gilbert, St. Patrick, and Prince of Peace. All of the Mass Held at these Churches were splendid.

The Churches where the event took place were decorated with symbols of Simbang Gabi- stars, angels, and poinsettias- to give the church a Filipino look. After the Mass ends, the church hosting the event will serve a meal to those who attended the Simbang Gabi. St. Patrick's Simbang Gabi was held on December 22, 2011, the celebrant was Bishop George J. Rassas. Bishop Rassas enjoyed saying the Mass and experiencing different ways to celebrate the coming of

Stars are a one of the main symbol of simbang Gabi



Jesus Christ. Father Fred, St. Patrick's pastor, attended the Mass, too. He said that the experience was fun and entertaining. Father Fred also said that the banjolo was an interesting instrument that took his favor. After the Mass at St. Patrick's church, the 250-300 people that came to the gym for a meal and to see the entertainment awaiting them. At the gym volunteers served Filipino food. After everyone has been given a plate of food, a group of teenage boys and girls perform a traditional candle dance and a more modern day dance. The audience was pleased and enjoyed this year's Simbang Gabi making it very successful.

Angels were to walk down the aisles at the beginning of the mass.



The teens also preformed a Christmas dance to entertain others while they were eating.



One of the entertainments was a dancing with candles preformed by teenage fillipinos.



The members of the Filipino choir sang very well during the mass.

Holiday Shopping

By: Allison M.

Have you been shopping this holiday season? You probably have been with Christmas being around this time and stores are having tons of big sales.

Some people even start holiday shopping right after Thanksgiving on Black Friday. People get up very early in the morning to get the big sales. A lot of the people who go out in the morning or even very late at night are looking to get electronics. Some of the big stores that people go to are Best Buy, Wal-Mart and Target.

Holiday shopping can get very busy. Usually around this time we get snow and ice which can make traveling to stores and getting around to the places you want to go difficult.

Holiday shopping isn't only for buying gifts, but it can also be for buying decorations. Lots of people buy live Christmas trees and decorations to put in and around the house. Lots of people put out lights on their house that you can buy and can be very festive during the holiday season.

Holiday shopping isn't just done right after Christmas. There are also a lot of sales after Christmas. Stores need to get rid of all their holiday/ Christmas decorations to get ready for the next season/holiday. A lot of stores put sales on stuff as wrapping paper, holiday cups, paper towels, napkins and cards. And not only grocery stores and super stores have sales, clothing stores have sales as well. Stores want to get rid of their holiday wear so they will also put it on sale.

Lastly, the holiday season is a time for shopping, but it is more important to have a good time and spend time with family!



TOYS FOR TOTS



U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE
For more information visit www.toysfortots.org



Toys for Tots

By: Nora M.

Toys for Tots began in the winter of 1947 when Diane Hendricks hand-made a doll and asked her husband, Major Bill Hendricks, to deliver it to an organization which would give it to a needy child for Christmas. After realizing that there was no such organization, his wife suggested he start one. So he started Toy for Tots and successfully collected 5,000 toys the first Christmas with the homemade doll being the first toy. The next year, the Marine Corps adopted Toys for Tots and expanded it nationwide. Since 1948, the Marines have been running this program and spreading the joy of Christmas to needy children all over America.

Major Bill Hendricks was a Marine Reservist on the weekends, but his main job was the Director of Public Relations for Warner Brother's Studio. He was able to get many celebrities to support Toys for Tots. The Toys for Tots logo was designed by Walt Disney. Disney also designed the first poster that was put up nationwide. The organization's theme song was recorded by Nat "King" Cole, Peggy Lee and Vic Damone in 1956. First Ladies Nancy Reagan and Barbara Bush served as national spokespersons.

The Marines have been the main sponsors of Toys for Tots with the help of celebrities and people just like us. From October to December, you see signs and boxes for Toys for Tots at stores, movie theatres, restaurants and in some neighborhoods. The organization's goal is to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate kids. Next Christmas when you see the Toys for Tots signs, donate a new toy to help them achieve their goal and make a child smile on Christmas morning.

Warmth to Those in Need

by Jenna W.

Imagine standing outside in 20-degree weather, while handing out coats to the needy. You're cold, but you're willing to help make sure the less-fortunate have coats, hats, gloves, and scarves.

This is what the student council members and their parents did on Saturday, while they could have been at home in their warm beds, sleeping in. At 9:30 AM, the coats were being handed out. Student council parents would get people's names and coat sizes, and the student council kids would find the coats, bag them, and later hand them out when the people got back from receiving their food from a nearby Church building.

The student council members have been collecting coats, hats, blankets, and winter wear for the months of November and December. Many coats and winter wear were donated, cleaned, and then prepared to go to Saint Bart's parish in Waukegan. The students stayed in during recess some days to organize the coats into bags.

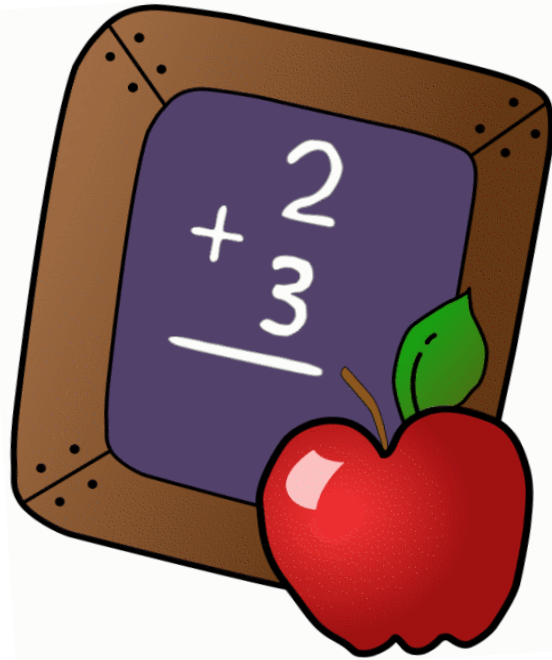
Such an event can change people's lives and make them feel more fortunate. Catherine P. in eighth grade says, "It helped open my eyes to the true spirit of Christmas." When asked if she would ever do it again, she says, "Yes!" I asked Erin from seventh grade, "Were you excited to give out coats?"

She replied, "Yes."

"What did you like most about the coat drive?" I asked her, wondering.

Erin answered with, "It made me realize what I have and made me sad to see what people have to go through. I'm glad I got to experience it." Erin says, yes, she would do this again if given the chance.

If you ever get the chance to be a part of this life-changing project, a lot of student council members would tell you to do it, because you will feel good inside, knowing that you helped people in need, and next time you complain about being cold, you can think about the less fortunate.



Teacher of the Month

By: Gina L.

Mrs. Sulla is the teacher of the month this newspaper issue. She is one of the newer teachers, only working at St. Patrick School for three years. I have the pleasure of sharing this astounding information about her.

Mrs. Sulla teaches second grade and decided to teach it because she loves teaching children and watching them learn; she teaches her second graders math, science, spelling, reading, and religion. Her favorite subject to teach is math and in her free time she likes to spend time with her two children. Her favorite color is pink, she has a fondness for anything chocolate, and she admires all different types of birds.

I interviewed Nathan P., one of her current students, and one of the questions I asked was, "Do you like Mrs. Sulla? Why?" He said that he loved Mrs. Sulla because she is a really nice teacher, makes learning fun, and she always has them do really entertaining art projects. He also said that on the first day of second grade, he was scared of what things would happen in a new grade, but she helped make him more comfortable with the new classroom he was going to be in for the rest of the year.

Mrs. Sulla is a very admired teacher by her current students, as well as her previous students. I hope that by some of this information you feel that she is a very appealing person and a welcoming, marvelous teacher.





The History of Christmas

By: Kate O.

Many People think of Christmas as presents, trees, stockings and Santa Claus, but there are not a lot of people who know the history of Christmas. The meaning of Christmas as we know it today is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ which happened 2000 years ago. The traditions we think of today regarding Christmas began way before Jesus Christ was born. Most of these traditions were started by different people of different places such as how some believe that caroling traditions were started by when the people of Scandinavia would sing in celebration of the Winter Solstice. Even though Christmas is mainly focused on the same belief as today, it is not celebrated the same in every place. Christians in China celebrate Christmas by decorating their homes with paper lanterns, paper flowers, and paper chains. Christians in Iran eat animal products from December 1st- after Christmas church services on Christmas Eve, after which their tradition of eating chicken stew after those Church services. As you can see there are many traditions in different countries in celebration of Christmas. But a huge part of Christmas to us is Santa Claus, also known as Dun Che Lao Ren which translates to "Christmas Old Man", or known in Britain as "Father Christmas. Santa Claus's history includes Bishop Nicholas of Smyrna who lived in the 4th century of A.D in what is known as today as "Turkey". He loved children and would always give to children,

especially poor children to brighten their day. Many Believe that Bishop Nicholas' tradition of giving is what leaded to "Santa Claus" bringing presents to kids on Christmas Eve. As you can see, the traditions of Christmas does have a history, and Christmas is celebrated differently in different places. I hope you had a great Christmas however you celebrated it!

A Clean Slate

By: Catherine P.

New Year's is the beginning of a fresh new start. You will be faced with new choices, new friends, and some change. What better way to prepare yourself than to make resolutions?

To start, reflect on the past year. What is one word you would use to describe 2011? What improvements do you want to make in your life? What is one goal you want to accomplish in the coming year? New Year's is the time for action, not just planning. So make sure you make a plan on how you are going to reach you new goal/goals. Here is a list of five goals that are very common in America. Use one of them or create your own, but remember that New Year's resolutions are not only for adults. They help you start the on the right path that can lead you to a very successful and rewarding year.

1) Spend more time with family and friends: Polls show that more than 50% of Americans make this resolution each year. Take some time out of your hectic schedule to spend quality time with your loved ones.

2)Fitness: Getting in shape is a great way to start of the New Year. It helps you look and feel better so why not give it a try? You don't need any fancy equipment or a gym membership. Just go for a run once in a while or practice your favorite sport.

3) Save money: Earning and saving money is a great way to practice responsibility. It is a very important skill that you will need later in life, so it is beneficial to you if you start practicing it now.

4) Get organized: Help reduce the clutter in your life at home or at school. If you are one of the people who frequently loses their homework in the black hole known as your locker, than this is probably the resolution for you.

5) Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Do your share to help out the planet. If you adjust your habits each day, you could save hundreds of pounds of garbage from going into landfills each year.

