

**St. Patrick
School**

What's The Buzz?

January 20 2009

Issue



Snow

By Ethan

Snow is one of the greatest types of precipitation on this planet. It has a soft and powdery feel and is a nation-wide symbol. Snow isn't just something else, something that gets in our way during winter, or another chore to do. Snow is a sign of winter, Christmas, and new life in Christ. Some people think of snow as dirty or annoying. But, to the Christian faith and to the world, snow should always mark a new year with a new, fresh start. Whether it be New Year's Day in January or Chinese New Year in February, snow should mark a new, clean, untouched year wherever you are.

Even if you live in a place that doesn't get any snow in the winter but you still get snow in the summer, you can relate to snow in a bit of a different way. Think about it. In the summer you get snow and it covers all the grass. The snow will melt and become water, which will wash the grass in addition to the rain. Water is a symbol of Baptism, washing away our sins and cleansing our souls. That is what this running water symbolizes. Now comes winter and the sun shines so brightly in the sky, drying all the water on the ground in similarity with the time in your baptism after you've been baptized and your parents or godparents clean you with a warm white towel, wiping you dry.

Now I hope you see snow in a different way, no matter where you live, no matter what happens, for example if you miss a meeting and you lose a major money-making opportunity, relax, it's snow, the Lord your God Baptizing you. It must have happened for a reason. So instead of getting mad when it snows enjoy the beauty in the great gift God has given you.



Take on Cheerleading and Mascot

By: Abbey

As you may know, cheerleading and the mascot are new in the school spirit department. It has brought more smiles to young ones, and more forced fans. With the famous question of who is under the mask, all fans small and tall are wondering, and with exciting fans doing the cheers along side of the cheerleaders. Now we are going to see what fans, coaches, and cheerleaders say about the changes in spirit.

Let's first see what cheerleaders say about the ride of being an extreme hornet fan. I have a cheerleader name Tate M. (in 6th grade) with us. Her favorite part was cheering on our boys. She also loved working with the mascot.

"I think that it brought a new vibe."

I had another cheerleader with me that was Tess K. in 7th grade. She loved the cheers and the chants. Only one word can tell how she likes working with the mascot...

"HILARIOUS!" But one thing Tess and Tate both said that the fans were really responding to what they were doing.

Some players I got to talk to were Drew M. and Thomas K. both in 7th grade. Drew said that the cheerleaders and mascot were fun and had great energy. Thomas said that they were really good, too. They both said that they were super supported.

What was really cool was that I could talk to Tara G. and Madi B. both in 8th grade. They though the cheerleaders had good team spirit. They also said that the mascot was up lifting. One of the questions I asked was if they wanted to go to the games more if they knew the mascot and cheerleaders were coming to the games. They said,

"Of Course!"

Thank you all of the people I got to talk to and hope you liked the games! All cheerleaders

Our next meeting is on
Tuesday,
February 9th.
It will be in
Ms. Smith's
room from
2:45 to 3:30.

The newspaper editorial staff would like to issue an apology to two of our reporters. The articles on page six of the January article did not have the author on them. We would like to apologize to Abbey K. for not putting her name on The Hornet Fans take it Up a Notch With a Mascot and to Ethan for not printing his name on the Amazing Immaculate Conception.
-The Editorial Staff

A Hero Still Touches Us Today.

By Brittany

What exactly is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day? Sure, we get a day off of school for it, and don't really question why. But why exactly do we have it? We have Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. after he was shot on his balcony in his home. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a civil rights activist, who fought for the rights of African Americans. He gave many speeches in many locations such as his famous "I have a dream" speech. He never gave up, and because of him, African Americans were given many rights.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a very persevering type of person. He went through grade school, high school, and got his doctorate degree from Boston University. He rode segregated busses, went to segregated public schools, and grew up in a very segregated world. He wanted to do something about it. He became a member of the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and had plans to take action. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a very civilized activist. His methods were non-violent and that was just the kind of person he was. During the early days of his boycotts, such as a bus boycott that lasted 382 days, many terrible things happened to him and his family. He was arrested, his home was bombed, and many other things, yet he emerged as a Negro Leader. Of course these things were bad, but in a way, they made him a stronger person. Just like now, when bad things happen in our lives, they make us a stronger person, and they teach us that we can overcome difficulties if we try our hardest. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote five books explaining some of the difficulties he over came, and why we are all equal.

He lead what he called "Peace Protests". One, perhaps the most well known one of all, included a march towards Washington, D.C. with Martin Luther King, Jr. leading and about 250,000 other African Americans following, King giving his "I have a Dream" Speech and concluding with him being arrested. No matter how many times he was beaten or arrested, he never gave up. In 1963 he was named Man of the Year by *Time* man. When he was thirty-five, King was the youngest man to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. When he was given this honor, he announced that he would donate the prize money, \$54,123, to the furtherance of the civil rights movement.

On April, 4 1968 Martin Luther King, Jr, one the greatest civil rights activists, was shot and killed on his balcony. Days later, Congress man John Conyers suggested a holiday be made in his honor to commemorate all the great things he had done for the Civil Rights world. After that, petitions were signed, letters were written to the President, and speeches were given, yet it took fifteen years for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to be a federal holiday. So, on the third Monday of every January we celebrate the Civil Rights Activist who did everything in his power to give African Americans the freedom and rights they deserve.



Martin Luther King Jr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave many speeches to very large crowds.

Happy New Year!

By: Taylor

New Years is one of the oldest holidays. Some believe that it started 4000 years ago in ancient Babylon. It marked the first New Moon after the Vernal Equinox. Some people ask why did New Years change from summer to winter since the spring is the season for growing and planting new crops and for new plants to blossom. Now New Years is on January 1st because January was named after their god Janus, A god who was seen with two heads. One of the heads faces forward and the other one faces backward to symbolize the beak between something new and old. Not all countries celebrate this holiday in the same way or on the same day as our country does. This is because people use different calendars. Some calendars are based on the movement and position of the sun and some are based on the position of the sun and moon. The Jews call New Years Rosh Hashanah. It is a holy time when people look back on the things that were done wrong in the past, and they promise to do better. Then they go to a synagogue where music is played and people get bread to remind them of the harvest. On January 17, the Chinese culture celebrates New Years or Yuan tan during the new moon by have parades and they have the festival of lanterns to brighten the path of the New Year. Chinese people also believe that there are evil spirits around them during the New Year, so the Chinese people set off fireworks to scare the evil spirits off they also seal their windows and doors shut with paper to keep the evil spirits out. But know matter where we live or how we celebrate this holiday, we all come together with our cultures to celebrate it.



Feature Teacher
By: Kara, Maggie, and Taylor

This month we are featuring Mrs. Doreen Placko as the feature teacher. Mrs. Placko is one of our 5th Grade homeroom teachers and the Math teacher in the intermediate wing. When asked what her favorite thing about teaching she said was, "When a student's face glows when they understand." When not teaching, she is the mother of 4, Christopher, Nicholas, Adam and Megan. She is a morning person who likes walking her dog Maxwell, a yellow Lab. When at home after a long day of numbers, she likes to watch her favorite shows Ugly Betty, Brothers & Sisters and Grey's Anatomy. For those of you who are in Jr. High you already know what a great teacher Mrs. Placko is. The rest of the grades just have some fun math classes to look forward to.

ASK LILY!

Dear Lily,

How do I overcome the fear of talking in front of people?

From,

Scared to Talk

Dear Scared to Talk,

I have been thinking about this one for awhile and the best thing I can think of is just to make others laugh! I love when people make me laugh. If your talking about, doing something in front of a class room like a play, skit, etc. Just be yourself, if your afraid people will make fun of you if you do something wrong don't worry about it. It's not like there going to remember it next week.

Best of Luck,

Lily

Dear Lily,

I have a friend who treats me badly. She always is talking behind my back. We have known each other for a very long time, and I have loved being friends with her. I really don't know what to do, or what to say to her.

From,

Confused about a friend

Dear Confused about a friend,

I've been in a situation like this before. One of my best friends was telling all my secrets to my other friends. If a friend is saying bad things about you and won't tell you why she doing this she's not a true friend! I bet you're a great person. Don't start talking about her. Putting fire against fire will just make a bigger fire.

Best of Luck,

Lily



Sinong may sabi mayroong labindalawang araw ng Pasko? (Who said there were 12 days of Christmas?)

By: Angela

In the Philippines, the Christmas Joy isn't over until January 6, the Feast of the Three Kings. The celebration started on December 16, which is a whopping 21 days of celebrations and feasts to commemorate Jesus' birthday. You could call this a national holiday, since more than 86% of the Filipino citizens are Roman Catholic.

From December 16 until the midnight between Christmas Day and Christmas Eve is the novena, or 9 days, of Mass. These masses are held in the early evening, usually around 5 or 6 PM. The Masses are held in Tagalog, or the Filipino language. After Mass, there is a large gathering in a community area or such where there is music, entertainment, and dinner for all those who attended, Filipino or not. Traditional foods include *puto bumbong* (a tube-shaped rice cake), *salabat* (hot ginger tea), *tsokoláte* (Spanish chocolate), and *pansit* (a dish of rice noodles, vegetables, and meat). The Simbang Gabi Mass for St Patrick Parish was on December 20 at 6 PM. On Christmas Eve in the Philippines, the churches are loaded with people eager for Midnight Mass. There is also a tradition of reenacting the Nativity story, and then Christmas Day comes. A giant feast is held on Christmas Day, and all of the family is invited to attend.

There is entertainment, singing, socialization, and lots of food. The Feast of the Epiphany, otherwise known as the Feast of the Three Kings, officially ends the spirit of Simbang Gabi. Children leave their shoes out, hoping for a small treat, such as oranges or coins. Even if you aren't Filipino, Spanish, or Mexican, Christmas is always a joyful time, and as always, celebrate Jesus with all your heart every day of the year.



Sixth Grade Girls' Basketball

by Jenna

The six grade girls basketball is just starting for 2010. I know how it is before basketball games, so good luck girls! The girls had a tournament on Saturday, January 9, 2010. They lost 9 to 18. I just recently talked with my good friend Kathleen about basketball before and after the tournament. "I hope to win and for us to establish some teamwork and trust." Said Kathleen before the game.



"You got better and improved throughout the game," their coach told them after the game.

"Did very well considering it was our first game and we didn't have practice on Thursday" In the future, Kathleen and her teammates hope to remember the plays and use them in the game. Keep at it, girls! Good job!

Christmas Cheer Throughout the School

By: Kara

Red and green shirts, crushed candy canes on the floor, Christmas carols.... If you're thinking that this is St. Pats' Christmas celebration, then you're right! All over the school, people were celebrating the coming of Christmas. From Christmas lights and trees in the Junior High to parties in the Primary and Intermediate Units, Christmas was in full swing. Fun, entertaining parties were happening in the Primary and Intermediate Units the day before Christmas break. There was Christmas music, sweet treats, and fun games!

In the Junior High, decorations were all over the place! In Mrs. Oldis' room, there was a tropical Christmas tree with ornaments that were made by some of the boys in the class. In Mrs. Gilmore and Ms. Smith's rooms, there were decorative chains that some of the sixth grade girls made. In Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Jennings rooms, there were real Christmas trees! In Mrs. Ortega's room, snowflakes that were made by some of 70's girls hung from the ceilings. To top it all off, everyone got to wear their favorite green or red shirt to school the day before Christmas break. That was an amazing Christmas thanks to the students and faculty at St. Pats!

A Man Who Changed History

Everyone has heard of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, but this month is the time to talk about Martin Luther King, Jr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a person who believed that African Americans and white people should be treated equally.

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth name was Michael Luther King, Jr. Later in life, he and his father changed their names to Martin. He was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. After completing his studies, he became a pastor. He married Coretta Scott and they had four children.



After seeing how whites were able to sit on buses and African Americans had to stand, Martin Luther King, Jr. decided he needed to do something about it. He began protesting the unfair treatment of African Americans. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. On April 24, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. was standing on a balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee when he was assassinated.

Martin Luther King, Jr. worked for peace and equality for all people during his lifetime. This is why we honor him this month. This month was chosen because January is the month of his birth. One of his most famous speeches was made on August 28, 1963. Here is part of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have A Dream Speech":

"I have a dream today . . . that one day . . . little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and little white girls as sisters and brothers. . . I have a dream today . . . I have a dream today that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by then color of their skin, but by the content of their character."



What Do You Think of the New Uniforms?

By: Monica

This seems to be a popular question: what do you think of the new uniforms? Some people love them while others hate them. I got to interview a few students to see what they thought. I first interviewed sixth grader Alyssa C. I asked her how she likes the uniform and what her favorite one was, she answered "I really like the new uniforms. They're really cute. My favorite is the pleated skirt and pants because they're cute and easy to move around in. I also really like the cardigan because it keeps you warm, but not to warm like the sweatshirt, but not to cold like the sweater vest. I don't really like the pencil skirt though, its to tight and hard to move in."

Next I interviewed eighth graders Monica P. and Anthony S. Monica said she does not like the new uniforms at all and she prefers the old ones. I ask Anthony how he felt about the boys uniforms not changing. He replied saying he didn't care and doesn't like the uniforms anyway. They both said that they didn't like the uniforms in general. They continued on saying how it is hard for us to express ourselves and our personal style.

Later on I interviewed sixth graders River L. and Tommy H. I asked Tommy if he cared about the boys uniform not changing. He said "No I don't think many guys care." River L. is new to our school, so I asked him what he feels about the uniforms. He said, "I don't like them at all! It's so hard to express myself."

But even if you like the uniforms or not we should still focus on what we are to do, which is to learn.



"I really like the new uniforms. They're really cute. My favorite is the pleated skirt and pants because they're cute and easy to move around in. I also really like the cardigan because it keeps you warm, but not to warm like the sweatshirt, but not to cold like the sweater vest. I don't really like the pencil skirt though, its to tight and hard to move in."

College Bowl Games

By: Jacob

Sixty-eight teams, thirty four winners, and one national champion. Dramatic upsets and game-ending thrillers. This was one of the best bowl game series ever to kick off the new decade.

The thirty-four Bowl Games began on December 19th and concluded on January 7th with the BCS National Championship Game. There were a total of six overtime periods and twelve games that were won by less than a seven point margin.

Three local teams were in action. The Wisconsin Badgers showed their luck as they edged the Miami Hurricanes, 20-14. In the Outback Bowl, the Northwestern Wildcats lost due to careless ball control as they slipped to Auburn, 38-35 in OT. In the International Bowl, the Northern Illinois Huskies suffered a blowout as they lost to the Southern Florida Bulls, 27-3.

In the Citi BCS National Championship Game, Texas Longhorns Quarterback Colt McCoy got injured in the first quarter. Turns out they needed him because Alabama, the underdog, upset the Longhorns, 37-21. In the Allstate Sugar Bowl, Tim Tebow played his last game as a Florida Gator Quarterback. He ended on a high note, though, as he creamed Cincinnati, 51-24.

Finally, in the Roady's Humanitarian Bowl, Idaho won in a thriller against Bowling Green University, 43-42. Bowling Green scored a touchdown in the final thirty-two seconds to make it a 42-35 game. Everyone thought the game was over but somehow, Idaho marched eighty-eight yards down the field got the touchdown and the two-point conversion to win the game.

