

**St. Patrick
School**

What's The Buzz?

**December 18,
2009**

Issue

ATTENTION NEWSPAPER STAFF:

**Please come
to our next
meeting on
Tuesday,
January 19
from
2:45 to 3:30
P.M.**

Everyone Loves Christmas!

By Ryan

The one holiday that everyone loves is Christmas. Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birth. Did you know that no one knows the exact date of Jesus' birth for certain? The date of December 25th was chosen sometime during the fourth century by the church bishops in Rome. It is the date that has been used throughout the centuries to celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth.

Many people enjoy putting

up a Christmas tree during the Christmas season with friends and family. The tradition of putting up a Christmas tree began in Germany over a thousand years ago. Many people decorate Christmas trees with

ornaments and lights. Another common decoration is tinsel. Have you heard the story behind using tinsel? It is called the Legend of the Christmas Spider. Long ago, a mother was cleaning her house for the arrival of the Christ child. The house was neat and tidy. However, on Christmas Eve, the spiders came out to admire the beautiful Christmas tree. As they crawled around the tree they covered it in webs. When the Christ child arrived, he touched the tree and turned these webs into beautiful slivers of silver and gold. This is how tinsel became a part of the Christmas tree.

Underneath the Christmas tree, people place gifts for family and friends. These gifts symbolize the spirit of the season. They remind us that Christmas is a time for giving and sharing with others.

Also in many peoples homes during the Christmas season, they place a Nativity scene. The Nativity scene is can also be called a Nativity crèche. The word crèche means "manger". The Nativity Scene shows the story of Jesus' birth as it is told in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. These are only just a few of the many traditions celebrated during the Christmas season. Hope you have a Merry, Merry Christmas!

HIKE!

By: Jacob

It's that time of the year again! Every December, most of the NFL teams are fighting to get into the playoffs.

So far this football season, we've seen the good, the bad, and the ugly. Currently after 13 games, there are two teams (Indianapolis Colts and New Orleans Saints) that are undefeated and two teams (Tampa Bay Buccaneers and St. Louis Rams) that have only one win. Only 12 teams (8 division winners and 4 wild card places) advance to the playoffs, but 20 teams are "in the hunt". Out of these 20 teams, only the Saints, Vikings, and Colts have clinched their playoff berths.

As the regular season wraps up, the Philadelphia Eagles, Minnesota Vikings, New Orleans Saints, Arizona Cardinals, New England Patriots, Cincinnati Bengals, Indianapolis Colts, and San Diego Chargers lead their divisions and the Green Bay Packers, Dallas Cowboys, and Denver Broncos control the wild card.

As you can see, there will be a lot of intense playoff races in the last 3 weeks of the season. Hopefully the Bears can participate in these races next year!



Three, Two, One Happy New Year!

By: Maggie

The ball drops, crowds cheer, and it's the New Year in Time Square, New York! Light the fireworks, bang the pots and pans, hug a friend. The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all the holidays. The greeting "Happy New Year" will be heard and said for at least the first couple of weeks when the new year is beginning. Some people spend New Year's Eve with their families while others like to go out and celebrate. However, did you know that New Years Day was not always celebrated on January first?

The celebration of the new year was first observed in ancient Babylon 4000 years ago. In around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New year began with the first visible crescent moon. (The first day of spring).

It was the Romans who first used January 1st as the beginning of the year in 153 BC. Prior to that, March 25th, the date of the vernal equinox, was celebrated as their New Year's Day and was considered to be the beginning of the New Year by most Christian European countries.

Even though some cultures, the Jews and the Chinese, keep their own calendar, the world today celebrates together on January 1st. So raise your glass and make a toast to a happy new year! Happy New Year!!

The Number One Christmas Gift of 2009

By: Jenna

By far, the most popular toys for this year are Zhu Zhu Pets, by Cepia! These little battery active hamsters have two modes: loving mode and explore mode. Loving mode lets you pet them and hear them squeak and chatter. Explore mode lets them scamper across the room and explore things. There are four little furballs to cuddle with: Mr. Squiggles, Num Nums, Chunk, and Pipsqueak. Each one has its own little Cepia symbol on its back. All of their furs are different and they have their own personality. Zhu Zhu Pets are very rare, in fact. These little toy hamsters have been sold out in many stores like Walmart and Toys R Us already. But, with a little research, I found out where you can find them: amazon.com. Go to that website and you can have your Zhu Zhu pet shipped to your house. One of the Zhu Zhu Pets, Mr. Squiggles, has had toxic chemicals in him.

People found this out not too long ago. They tested him again, and he is now non-toxic and ready for action!

Cepia is a new toy company. They have two toys: Glo-e and Zhu Zhu Pets. Glo-e bears are teddy bears that glow in different colors when you push their arm. Zhu Zhu pets are Cepia's newest invention. For more information on Cepia and their products, go to www.cepiallc.com and for more information on Zhu Zhu Pets, go to www.zhuzhupets.com. Have a merry Christmas, everyone!

Christmas Around the World

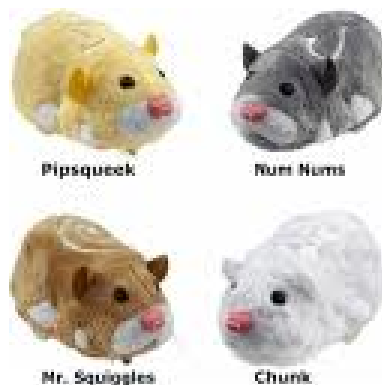
By: Monica

All around the world different countries have different Christmas traditions. I want to inform you about some traditions that are interesting. One tradition takes place in Belgium. In Belgium they have two Santa's, St. Nick and Pere Noel. St. Nick comes on December 4th and stays until December 6th. He is told to watch the children and on December 6th report to Pere Noel who's naughty or nice. Then on Christmas on night Pere Noel will give the naughty children twig and nice children presents.

In Brazil their "Santa" is Papai Noel. He is said to live in Greenland. It is also told he wears silk because of the heat. Like our Santa, Papai Noel comes to children's homes on Christmas Eve and leaves them presents. On January 6th the Three Kings or Wise Men come to give them gifts like they did to Jesus.

Ireland has a very religious Christmas. Christmas there starts on December 24th to January 6th. Candles are placed in every window. They do this in case Mary and Joseph need a place to stay. The women bake seed cake and three puddings for each day Christmas, New Year's Day, and the Twelfth Day. After Christmas they put a meal of bread and milk as a sign of hospitality.

Italy like Ireland also has a very religious Christmas. It lasts for three weeks. Eight day before Christmas Italians celebrate the Novena which is a time children go from door to door singing and saying Christmas poems. One week before Christmas children will do the same thing, but they will dress up as shepherds and will collect money for Christmas shopping. Their Santa is a kind, ugly, old witch named La



The four hamsters available are Mr. Squiggles, Nums Nums, Chunk, and Pipsqueak.

History of St. Nick

By: Jacob

“T”was the night before Christmas, and all through the house. Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.” This saying has been repeated over and over every Christmas time. Unfortunately, many people don’t know St. Nick’s original story.

Believe it or not, the story starts off with a boy named Nicholas. Nicholas was born in the third century and was raised in the village of Patara. His wealthy parents died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. As he was growing up, he heard about a scripture from Jesus saying “sell what you own and give the money to the poor” and followed that scripture for the rest of his life.

There are many stories and legends about St. Nicholas, but the first one told is about a father and his daughters. The father ran out of money and couldn’t marry off his daughters. So, he was forced into selling the daughters to slavery. The night before each were to be sold, Nicholas threw a bag of gold into an open window in their house. This happened three times before the father caught Nicholas in the act. When the father asked Nicholas why he did this, Nicholas replied “You need it more than I do. It is good to give and have only God know about it.”

Later as a young man, Nicholas was named the *Bishop of Myra* and dedicated his life to serving God. However, under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, Bishop Nicholas was imprisoned for being a Christian. After being released from jail, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea. Eighteen years later, Bishop Nicholas died on December 6th. Now, the day of his death is considered a holiday where if you leave your shoe out in an open place, the spirit of Saint Nicholas will give us small treats, such as oranges, nuts, etc.

As the years went by, Saint Nicholas’ name has been changed to many other names, like Santa Claus, Para Noel, and Kris Kringle. Even though many people have changed his name and now celebrate the holiday in a completely different way, the spirit of Saint Nicholas lives within us.



Dear Lily and Destiny,
I really like this girl and I'm not sure what to get her for Christmas.

From, Lost in the Mall

Dear Lost in the Mall,

We really think that getting a present for a girl is really sweet of you. A charm is a cute gift for her. It's simple and affordable, but not too cheap. Also, it'd be nice if you also got charm to remind her of you, like a basketball if both of you like the sport. Finish it off with a handwritten card saying how you're happy you got to spend a holiday season with her at school. Make sure you smile when giving it to her!

Best of Luck,

Lily and Destiny

Dear Lily and Destiny,

I gave my password to my email to one of my friends, but now other people know what it is. I don't know who, but someone has been sending emails to my best friend and others saying mean things about them. My best friend confronted me a couple days ago and sad if I didn't treat others nicer, our friendship was over. How do I get out of this situation?

From,

Trapped in Emails

Dear Trapped in Emails,

First of all, it wasn't so smart of you to give your password out, even to a friend. Tell an adult about the problem and help them help you. Try not to be offended by what your friend said, because he/she thinks you're the one sending out the emails. Tell he/she that someone has been on your account and sent the emails. We both hope this turns out the way you want it to.

Best of Luck,

Lily and Destiny

Prepare the Way for the Coming of God

By: Brittany

January 1st is the first day of the New Year around the world, but the first Sunday of Advent marks the first day of the new liturgical year. The main color we wear during advent is purple because it is a sign of penance similar to Lent. Advent is typically the main time of preparation, for Jesus' coming into the world to save us. However, the entire liturgical year is really the entire preparation time. Advent is a time of joyous preparation though. During advent people do many different things, such as daily advent reflections to prepare themselves for the coming of God. The four weeks of advent represent the four thousand years of darkness before the coming of Christ. Advent can have twenty-eight days, or twenty one days, depending on when the first Sunday of Advent is. The Christmas Carol "O Come O Come Emmanuel" is based on the anticipation of the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

During Advent, we light a circular wreath made of evergreens with four candles around the edges representing the circle of the year and the life that lasts through the winter. As we light the Advent candles, it represents the promise of the coming of Jesus, the light of the world. We light one candle on each Sunday of Advent. It also marks how many weeks left until Christmas. The colors of the candles are typically, three purple and one rose or pink colored one. Sometimes there's also one larger, white candle in the center for Christmas/Christmas Eve. The pink candle is lit to remind us that Advent is a time to rejoice. The circle of the wreath is to symbolize the eternity of God. The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns Jesus wore for us. The actual origin of the Advent wreath is unknown but has been around for quite awhile.

There are many Advent traditions families do together each year. Some make manger scenes to show where Jesus' was born. Others make Jesse Trees to tell about Jesus' family ancestry through symbols that relate to scripture to salvation history. On Saint Nicholas Day, families leave their shoes out, in hopes that St. Nicholas will leave them something. Then there are other traditions such as nativity scenes, Christmas baking, and blessing the Christmas tree. Sometimes families even make Christ candles that they decorate with holiday objects. The candle is lit during meal times to serve as a pleasant reminder of Mary's eager expectation of the "Light of the World." It can also serve as a reminder to each family member to keep their own light of grace burning as a preparation for Christ's coming. As we come into this time of Advent, let us keep in mind it is a time of anticipation, vigilance, promise, and journey to the birth of Christ.



CHEERLEADING

By: Taylor



What a difference a year makes! As the Boys Basketball teams were preparing for their season, the Cheerleaders were preparing to bring as much team spirit, pride and enthusiasm back to our home court of St. Patrick's. Cheer practices started in the middle of October. Since that time, the cheerleaders along with their coaches Mrs. Kloss, Mrs. O'Reilly, and Maddie Lake have been practicing various cheers and chants, in hopes to make this a fantastic year for all the Hornet fans and players. After a year off from our school having cheerleaders it appears that this year the cheerleaders have helped boost the Hornet pride. The gym is filling up with a lot more noise as well as fans. In addition, the cheerleaders have made dozens of shakers and signs that the fans can use, to help show our team spirit and pride in the gym. I talked to a couple of people and asked them what the difference was between this year and last years games. The responses were that this year was one of the most exciting years to watch the boys play. Unlike last year we have music for the cheerleaders and basketball team members to warm up to, we had cheerleaders to make the gym a lot louder, and just before each game began the cheerleaders would make a tunnel for each player to run out of, and the Hornet mascot greets every player as they came out onto the floor. The mascot has been a great addition to the cheerleading team.



From left to right the cheerleaders are Claire, Tess, Ashley, Kelly, Mr. Buzz, Monica, Abbey, and Taylor.

Blitz Day
By Angela

Blitz day, otherwise known as Black Friday is the day after Thanksgiving, the day when many people shop for Christmas presents. It is one of the biggest days for shopping, coming as #4 in 2002. It's not an official holiday, but many people have the day off, except for people in retailing, of course!

How did Black Friday get its name?

This name was given to this special shopping day on the 1960s, to kick off the holiday shopping season. Black could refer to when accounting was done by hand, when red ink meant a loss and black ink meant a profit. Ever since the Macy's Thanksgiving parade started in 1924, Black Friday has gripped the nation in a financial hold. The name also refers a stock market crash in 1869, when gold speculators bought out massive amounts of gold, but failed to sway the market.

Discounts and Camping

Retailers began to realize they could draw huge crowds of customers if they gave even small discounts, Black Friday was the day that was chosen to give a special discount. There is even more shopping on Black Friday than the last-minute Christmas Eve sales! Special online coupons are put online even weeks before the event. The 2 categories of biggest depletion are toys and electronics, since these have the biggest discounts on Black Friday. Some people, after Thanksgiving dinner, camp out in the cold waiting for stores to open early the next day.

Cyber Monday is also related to Black Friday, since online discounts and shipping and handling overnight is more comforting than camping in the cold and waiting in line for over 5 hours for some people.

No matter how you spend Black Friday, shopping is the #1 way to spend the discounted day!

November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Black Friday!

Tyler T. , an 8th grader, wrote this poem last year and recently performed it for his class. This poem has become a favorite among teachers and classmates of this new found poet. His creative writing and dramatic performance is inspiring!

Burial Duty

Crunch, (deep breath)...
Crunch, (seep breath)...
Shovel and dirt, dirt and shovel. Dig, throw, rest, rest. Dig, throw, rest, rest.
Three men: one dead, two

alive. A coyote howls in the distance. A full moon, and eerie wind. Three men, two shovels, and a cross. A prayer being muttered by one of the two. The sign of the cross. "Amen." Silence... An owl calls asking "Who? Who will be next?"

The two men struggle with the weight of the other. Thud.

Crunch, (deep breath)...
Crunch, (seep breath)...
Shovel and dirt, dirt and shovel. Dig, throw, rest, rest. Dig, throw, rest, rest.

A cross being pushed into
The ground. The creak of a gate. Heavy footsteps. Done

-Tyler T.



The Hornet Fans Take it Up a Notch With a Mascot!

A new feature for our 6th, 7th, 8th, grade boys' basketball games is... a Hornet Mascot! Any Jr. High boys can be the mascot for a game. It is a complete surprise who he is, so every night the fans keep guessing his identity.

The person who is the mascot changes every game. It is fun for them, because it is a chance for them to buzz around the gym bringing school spirit. Going to the games is so much fun and entertaining now with their "bee" like comedy. Every night is exciting, because each new hornet has a funny spirit that changes from game to game.

Thank you Mrs. O'Reilly for making and donating the wonderful, colorful hornet costume! All of us at St. Pat's love it! Thank you for donating it and beginning a tradition of hornet energy, and spirit.

The great thing is, I got the inside scoop about how she made it! She started with a bike helmet to use for the base of the head. The helmet had holes on the back so she made holes available for air movement. Then on the top it has a vent. She did this for a breathable space for the hornet. On the outside of the costume the hornet has an angry smile on his face. The boys wear black pants and shirts. The body of the hornet has green and black stripes on the body.

What makes me laugh is that some of the mascots studied being a mascot; for example Adam C. He studied videos on You Tube of mascots and practiced acting silly! He also said that he loved the costume and was better than what he imagined it to be! He said that wearing the costume can get warm, but he still loved it. His favorite thing was throwing t-shirts and cinch bags to the noisy crowd! He said the first time he did it was a little nerve wrecking, but at the end of the night he still wanted to be the mascot! His signature way to pump up the crowd was jumping up and down and sitting in between people.

I asked, "If you could change the hornet to another mascot what would it be, and what you would name him/her?"

He answered, with no second to spare, "A BEAR! Named Billy the Bear!"

I also asked, "What would he name the hornet?"

He said "Harry the Hornet."

Nathan B. was the winner of the hornet mascot contest he named it

"Mr. Buzz." The contest was for the Jr. High kids to make up a name for the

Hornet mascot. All the names were judged by Mrs. Bosank choice the right

Name for our wonderful hornet.

Anyway, thanks Adam for the interview! It was awesome hearing your creative answers! I hope you will be the mascot for the next year too! So Adam and

I hope to see you at the game!



Mr. Buzz rocked the court every home game by hyping up the crowd. The kid behind the mask could have been Anthony, Matt, Joe, Sean, Garrett, Adam, Erik, Dan, Nolan, Kenny, Colin, or River.

Amazing Immaculate Conception

The Immaculate Conception is the feast of Mary, the mother of Jesus the Son of God, who was free from the stain of Original Sin or also known as *Immaculate*, at *Conception*, or when she was first inside her mother's womb. That is why this feast is called the Immaculate Conception.

This feast is celebrated by people of the Roman Catholic Religion on December the eighth during the time of Advent, a time of waiting. It is very appropriate for this season in the Roman Catholic calendar. Pope Sixtus IV established in 1476 that it would be a universal feast. It is a Holy Day of obligation, which is a week day when all Catholics are required to visit the house of the Lord, the church in their neighborhood. It is especially celebrated in the United States where it is the country's patronal feast.

There are prayers to be prayed on this holy day of the remembrance of Mary such as *Queen of Peace*, *Pray for us!* and *The Hail Mary*. There are songs named after her for her remembrance, too. The Roman Catholic faith believes that she is so Holy, that after she died, she went into heaven where her son Jesus was, body and soul. The gospel story of the Immaculate Conception can be found in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter one, verses twenty-six through thirty-eight. This can be one of the most beautiful masses in the Roman Catholic year. It is a feast meant to be remembered.

