

What's Inside?

Holiday



Local church continues "Operation Christmas Child" program. Page 2

Holiday



Pucker up! Learn about the origins of mistletoe. Page 4



Sports

MHS Winter Sports were finished, now they're starting again! Page 5

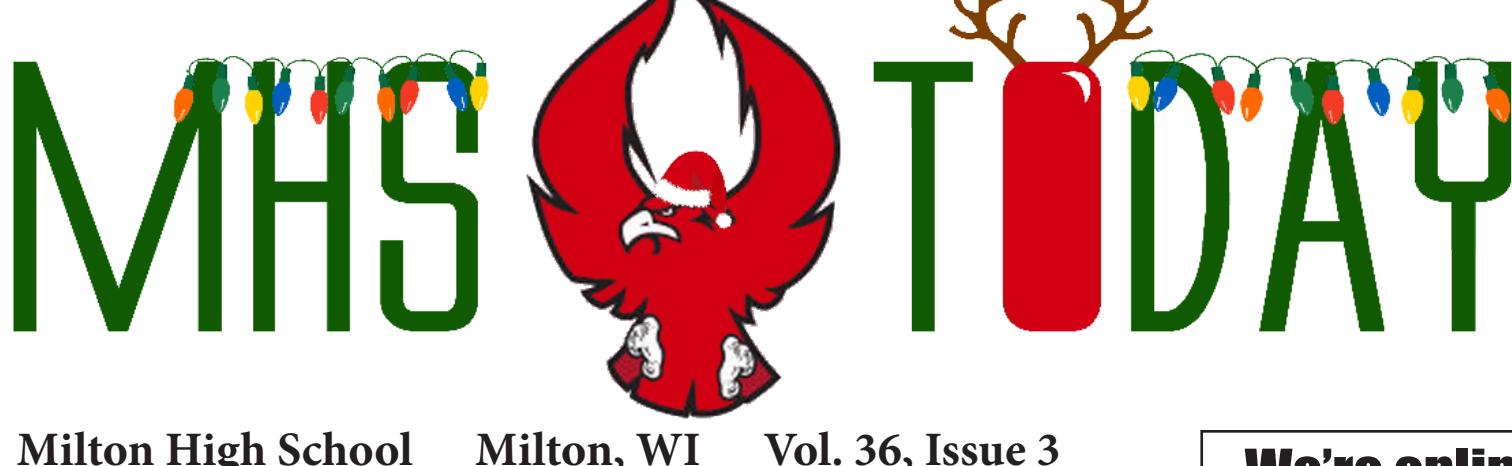


Holiday

MHS Staff don their ugly sweaters Page 6

Finding the Pickles

Throughout this edition there are 10 hidden pickle ornaments. Find them all!



Milton High School Milton, WI Vol. 36, Issue 3

December 2020

Nothing says "Christmas" like... A Pooping Log?



Emma Kruse In the United States, most families who celebrate Christmas do so with snowmen, hot chocolate, and gifts on Christmas morning, but many unique celebrations and traditions of the U.S. actually originate in other areas of the world.

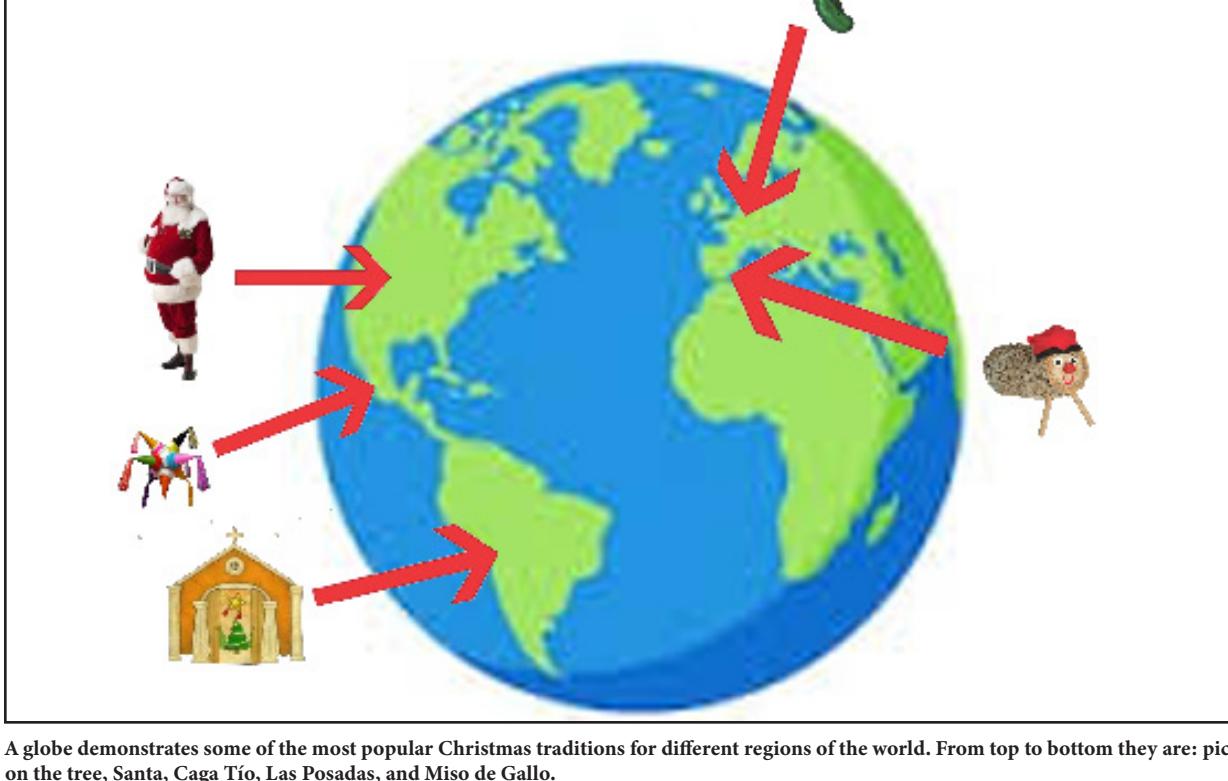
A commonly seen tradition from Germany and Poland is the pickle in the tree.

"My grandma on my mom's side moved here from Scotland, so we have a tradition that I believe is Polish, but is also seen in Scotland where we have a pickle shaped ornament that is hidden Christmas Eve night, and the Christmas morning the person who finds it opens the first gift," senior Anna Mitchell said.

Sophomore Meghan Everett, also partakes in German traditions. "My family makes potato dumplings," Everett said. "We've been making these for about 8 years, and we started making them when we had a German exchange student, Jens. We've been making them ever since he introduced us to them," Everett said.

Containing 14 countries, South America is also home to a wide variety of Christmas traditions.

For example, in Columbia, the sky glows with tons of fireworks, often lasting several hours. In Spain, a popular fun tradition is Tió de Nadal, also known as Tronca, when kids decorate a tree log with legs, eyes, and a blanket. They then chant



A globe demonstrates some of the most popular Christmas traditions for different regions of the world. From top to bottom they are: pickle on the tree, Santa, Caga Tío, Las Posadas, and Miso de Gallo.

a song and beat it with a stick, close their eyes, and presents will appear underneath it. Those who are really committed can leave food and water out for Tió de Nadal.

In America, we know this as "The Pooping Log". Elizabeth Evans, Spanish teacher at MHS, was studying abroad in Spain. Europe during Christmas time and commented on how packed the streets were. "My friend and I

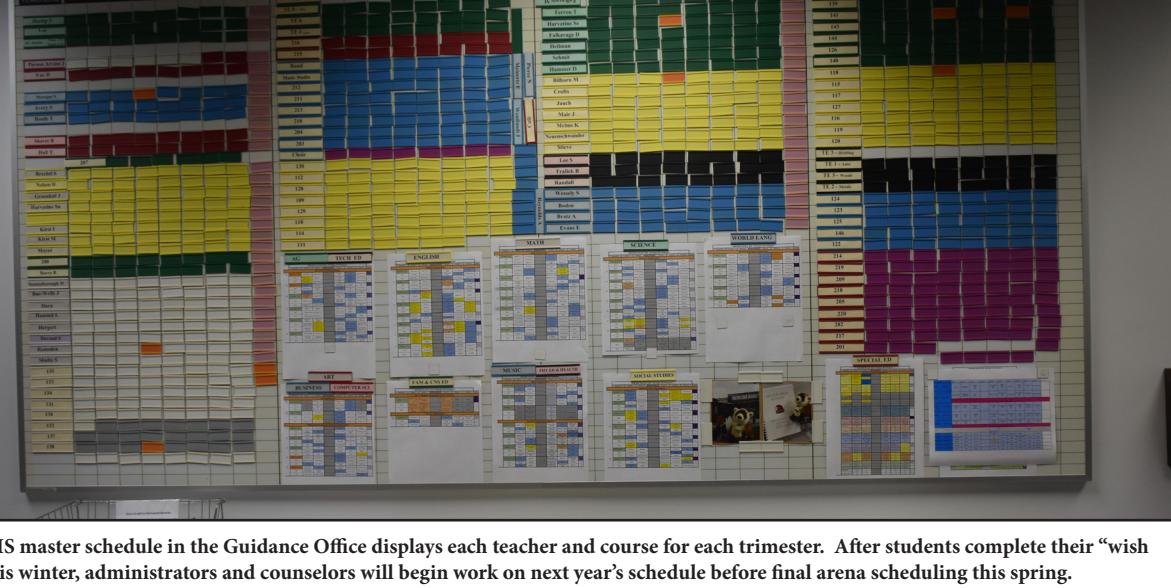
were trying to find a restaurant on Christmas Eve, and everywhere was packed! It was super busy," Evans said.

In Mexico, they celebrate Las Posadas which is a religious festival lasting from December 16 to 24. There is often lots of dressing up and a huge parade.

King's day is a very popular holiday as well. Legend says that the night of January 5, three Kings traveled across

the world to bring the baby Jesus gifts. Kids will write letters to the Kings, much like Americans do for Santa. In some parts of Mexico, it's customary to tie letters to a balloon and release it into the sky. Cultures around the world are all so different, from writing letters to Santa, to beating a log until candy comes out, there are so many fun ways families celebrate Christmas time.

MHS Moves to Arena Scheduling



The MHS master schedule in the Guidance Office displays each teacher and course for each trimester. After students complete their "wish lists" this winter, administrators and counselors will begin work on next year's schedule before final arena scheduling this spring.

Tyler Laatsch Course selection will look different for students this year. Instead of students choosing classes and counselors arranging schedules by period, students will be able to choose exactly what hour they will take each class. This process is known as arena scheduling.

According to MHS guidance counselor Sarah Gruber, arena scheduling will be in the spring. Students will go into Skyward (the online grading

and scheduling system), they will see their wishlist, and then they'll get to pick what class they want which hour.

Throughout December, all students (including eighth graders) are filling out their wishlist by selecting any courses they might be interested in taking. That process hasn't changed, except counselors are asking students to select more alternates this year so they have more options when the selection process officially starts.

After students put in their requests, counselors take that information to Principal Jeremy Bilhorn and he and

the administrators make a master schedule.

They make the master schedule based on how many students are interested in each course, how many sections are needed, and how many classes each teacher teaches.

Even though the process is changing, students will have more flexibility and more control overall. "Instead of us in the computer picking, you get to have that power. You are building your own schedule," Gruber said.

See "Course Selection" p. 7



This year, the MHS drama department took on the new challenges of a virtual play! The cast performed at 7:00 p.m. December 17-19 using the format of a radio show!



Cast Members:

Kaz Bresnan, Samantha Brooks, Kylie Cole, Isaac Cole, Renee Clateaux, Julianna Crandall, Grace Egger, Grace Kettner,

Hannah Mirza, Ellie Parker, Aurora Pregler, Zoe Schilling, Kelsey Schultz, Chloe Shaw, Sarah Thul

Sound Crew: Aubrey Janisch

Milton Church Touches the Lives of Many



As the holidays draw near, many people are scrambling to find the perfect gifts for dear friends and family. However, over at the Milton Seventh Day Baptist (SDB) church, they have been preparing for holiday gift giving for months.

Starting in September, a committee headed by Linda Lyke, outreach coordinator at Milton SDB, put their heads together to plan this year's Operation Christmas Child (OCC) packing party.

This yearly event consists of adults and children alike coming together to stuff shoeboxes full of necessities and toys for children in need. These shoeboxes are then shipped all around the world for children to open as a very special Christmas present. Something like a shoebox seems so simple but has a big impact.

OCC's mission is to "spread Jesus' love and the Gospel message around the world starting with a simple shoebox," Lyke said.

She has been in charge of coordinating Milton SDB's event for four years, and continues to do so because "it reaches people locally within our own church, in our community. We invite churches to participate, and we invite businesses to participate. It's a collaborative effort of people in the community."

One Milton SDB churchgoer and MHS junior, Genna Mullen, has been participating in OCC for as long as she can remember. "My favorite part about OCC is the joy I get from packing the boxes; knowing that the kids who receive them are go-



Operation Christmas Child Volunteers social distance while packing shoeboxes to send to children across the globe. Photo submitted.

ing to be so happy for something as simple as a toothbrush, toothpaste, and a small toy," Mullen said. She encourages community members to participate in this project or others as a "good reminder of how fortunate we are to have what we have."

Mullen is just one volunteer out of the many who attend packing parties, but there are also those on the OCC committee.

Lyke is in charge of delegating tasks to her committee members and making sure they all pull together.

Just a few of these roles include a shopper to find good deals on items to give the kids, an item coordinator to put these items together in an

orderly fashion, a marketer to spread the word, and a community coordinator to bring people together for the event.

The collaborative element in OCC can involve people of all ages and backgrounds, as the youngest member on the OCC committee, Ellie Greene is just 12 years old. "Ellie came onto the first zoom meeting and right away she started offering ideas," said Lyke, sounding very proud.

Greene serves as the community coordinator, sending letters and emails to various churches and businesses to get them involved.

While quite festive, this commu-

nity involvement doesn't end with the holiday season. "Ellie and I are talking about things that she can do through the year to reach out to community members," Lyke said. Her hope for the future is "reaching out in new ways to our community. Throughout the year, having them collaborate with us, and then through the packing party."

Lyke encourages community members to donate items—not just during the holiday season, but year round—to OCC.

See "Operation Christmas Child" p. 7

Lending a Helping Hand

Winter Spirit Week began Monday, December 14 with "Giving Day", during which students and staff were encouraged to donate either food items for the Milton Food Pantry and/or toys for the Milton Chamber of Commerce Toy Drive.

Tables were filled with food and our school's contribution doubles the Toy Drive's items. Great job, MHS!



Christmas in America

Italian International Student Federica Tiberio is excited for her first American holiday season



Christmas is usually a time when families get together, but this year because of COVID-19, many are not able to spend the holidays with each other. Imagine, however, not being able to spend Christmas with your family and being in a completely different country that is over 4,000 miles away from home.

This year MHS's foreign exchange student from Italy, Federica Tiberio, is excited to be spending this Christmas here in Milton, WI, with the Krent family, even though she will be away from home and her family.

Typically in Italy, both in the north and the south, food is a big tradition. Tiberio said that she is from a big family, so she celebrates both traditions from northern Italy and southern Italy.



International Student Federica Tiberio

"In the north, we celebrate on the 25th with all the relatives, we usually go to midnight mass. We usually eat different appetizers, broth with homemade tortellini, broth meat, and at the end, we eat dessert with coffee. After we finish lunch, we open Christmas presents in order of age."

Tiberio also shared the traditions and customs of her relatives that live in southern Italy, Tiberio said that it is custom for them to celebrate on December 24, 25, and 26 and that they eat more, particularly something different and special each day.



Pictured above is a traditional Christmas meal in Italy. Photo by MHS foreign exchange student Federica Tiberio.

"On the 24th after the midnight mass, they come back to the house and open the presents; they usually eat fish, and they mostly eat eel. On the 25th, the relatives meet each other to have lunch, and they eat parmesana (similar to lasagna), roast, chicken, potatoes, and at the end of the lunch, they always eat mozzarella," Tiberio said.

Both northern and southern Italy similarly celebrate December 26. Tiberio said, "We also celebrate the 26th because it's Saint Stefan, and on that day, we usually eat lasagna, roast, or a type of pasta called 'casoncelli.' Saint Stefan's day is celebrated on December 26 to commemorate Saint Stephen, the first Christian martyr or protomartyr in the Latin Church."

At the end of it all, Tiberio said that those in both northern and southern Italy eat "pandoro and panettone" which is a traditional sweet bread.

American and Italian traditions seem to be so similar, yet so different. It seems as though in Italy at least for Tiberio and her family, they celebrate Christmas over numerous days. While that might be the case

with some families, many Americans usually only celebrate Christmas on one day.

Ultimately though both Americans and Italians celebrate similarly to one another with the biggest difference being food.

Considering how food plays such a large part at Christmas time in Italy, Tiberio said that she is excited to try the different foods that people eat in America. "I'm excited to try all the food that you usually eat here and also to have a big breakfast on the day of Christmas."

However, Tiberio said that she would miss a lot about Italy, especially all the food, but that she would miss pandoro and panettone the most.

Like many people this year, Tiberio plans to video call home to say hi to all of her relatives and to share a photo of the food that she tries this year.

Similar to Tiberio, MHS French Teacher Alissa Bratz traveled to France when she was in high school without her family.

Bratz travels all the time, especially

to France. Although she has never traveled during the holiday season, Bratz said the hardest part about being away from home is just wanting to be able to share the experience with her family.

Otherwise, Bratz said that when she travels, she is so busy exploring and having fun that she does not have time to focus on missing her family.

Tiberio agrees with Bratz that special experiences are worth some sacrifice, but she does not feel she'll be without family this holiday. "I still have many more Christmases in the future, and it is not true that I will spend this Christmas without my family because I created my family here" said Tiberio.

Although Tiberio misses her family, that isn't stopping her from enjoying her time here in America, celebrating new Christmas traditions with new people.

Bratz also said that her family was happy for her to be able to travel and experience new cultures and customs

Buon Natale! A Taste of Italy

International Student Federica Tiberio

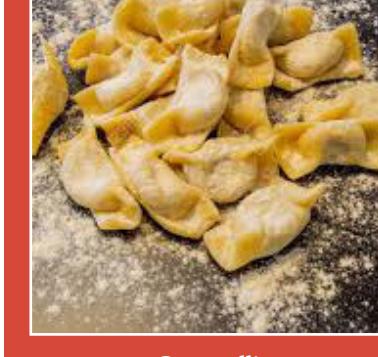
Tiberio is looking forward to experiencing Christmas in America, but a part of her will definitely miss the delicious foods from her home in Italy. Here are just a few traditional Italian holiday favorites.



Panettone
(Sweet Bread
w/ Candied fruits & raisins)



Pandoro
(Sweet Bread)



Casoncelli
(Stuffed pasta)

Shredding into 2021



Despite the crazy times and changes that everyone has been facing, there is one industry that is anticipating a season better than ever.

COVID-19 has caused numerous cancellations throughout the past 9 months, however, snowboarders, skiers, and staff at ski resorts have confidence that this snowboarding season can be a great success if safety precautions are taken seriously.

From toddlers to adults, anyone could be shredding the slopes this unique holiday season.

Some MHS students could be found at these ski resorts as well.

Two MHS seniors, Julia Jaecks (skier) and Caden Leslie (snowboarder), share a common favorite ski resort, Cascade Mountain.

Cascade Mountain is located in Portage, WI which is about an hour drive from the Milton area.

Jaecks said, "My favorite place to ski is Cascade because it's a big place and they have a lot of different runs at all different levels."

Cascade is a great place for beginners to give snowboarding or skiing a try, and it also has some challenging double black diamond runs for the more advanced riders.

Leslie said he enjoys Cascade as well, "It has long runs and can challenge your skills."

Besides Cascade, there are many other other ski resorts in the Southern Wisconsin area.

Another local favorite is Tyrol Basin. Tyrol Basin is located about an hour away from the Milton area in Mt. Horeb.

Tyrol Basin is a smaller resort than Cascade, however it has plenty of runs, a great terrain park, and some beautiful runs that are really tucked away in the trees.

Lyndsay Ward, Snow Sports Director at Tyrol Basin, has been in the snowboarding and skiing industry for quite a while. "I have been skiing for 23 years and snowboarding for



On November 28 2020, Tyrol Basin posted this instagram image of their grooming team working on preparing the snow for the upcoming season. Photo by Lyndsay Ward.

18," Ward said.

Even though her home mountain is Tyrol Basin, Ward appreciates other resorts as well. "Tyrol Basin is my favorite place...obviously, but some of my favorite places are in the Upper Peninsula. They have the "out West" feel and terrain, but are less crowded. I like Boyne Highlands (Michigan), Marquette Mountain (Michigan), Big Snow Resort (Michigan), and I also really enjoy the tree skiing/riding at Granite Peak (Wisconsin)," says Ward.

Skiing and snowboarding are hobbies that people can really pick up at any age.

There is always a large range of skill levels out on the slopes.

Leslie and Jaecks have both been skiing or snowboarding for about 10 years.

For Leslie, it was another sport that first introduced him to snowboarding. "I met a kid who snowboards at a baseball camp, gave it a try, and then I fell in love with it."

Jaecks said, "I started skiing when my parents put my sister and me in ski lessons because both of my parents ski. It's something we can all do together."

Similarly to Jaecks, Ward has been snowboarding and skiing with her family from a young age. Ward says, "My dad is an avid action sport thrill-seeker and passed along that

gene to me. He taught me when I was very young, I was brought up in the culture of skiing/snowboarding, and it has been a part of me my entire life."

COVID-19 has begun to affect nearly everything, however, Ward along with many others are thrilled and optimistic that snowboarding and skiing will continue to be an activity that is available for people to do this winter.

"We are all required to have some new processes and safety procedures depending on what county we're in, based on the Ski Well Be Well Campaign put out by the NSAA," Ward mentions, "Some resorts may have more strict procedures than others depending on where they're located and the amount of daily traffic they see. However, all resorts are banning together to make sure we follow the necessary guidelines to have a ski/snowboard season."

With that being said, many people have more free time this year and may want to spend it on the slopes.

Ward says, "I think it will be crowded in different ways. The industry will attract more first-timers... families who want to learn the sport because it's something that is outside and safe to do over the winter months."

Sledding with COVID

MHS Students and Staff share their favorite sledding memories, traditions, and mishaps



Sledding is one of America's favorite past times during the winter season. During these unfortunate times with COVID, sledding is safe with all the required precautions.

As kids, many people remember their parents taking them sledding. Brenda Barra, MHS Family and Consumer Education teacher and mother, takes her kids as often as she can.

She doesn't like taking them when it is really cold because they don't tell her when their toes are freezing.

"Our neighbors have a medium size hill that we go on, and we also like to go to King Hill behind the Post Office," Barra said.

King Hill is very popular in Milton for sledding. It is located behind the post office on Hill Street.

Many different kids and teenagers go there with their friends and family with many different types of sleds.

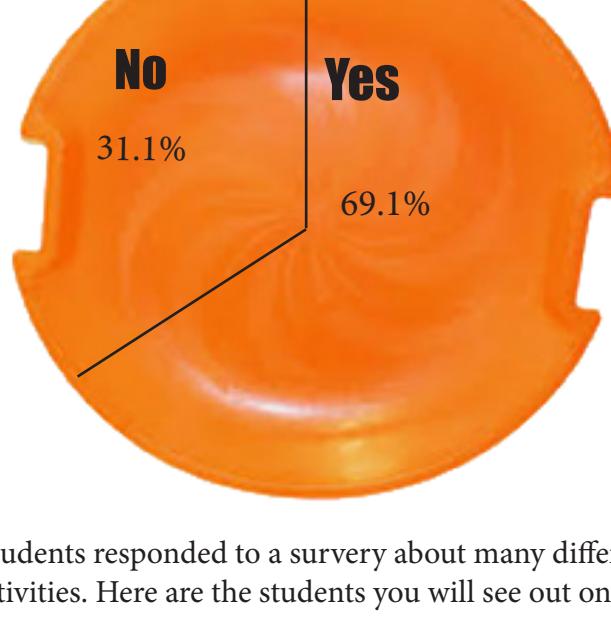
In 2020 the most popular sled used is an inflatable snow tube, but the Barra family likes a different type of sled.

"Our family likes to use the long plastic one because we can fit more kids in them. Sometimes we even spray pam on the bottom of them to make them go faster," said Barra.

Sledding can sometimes be dangerous, but a lot of fun memories can come from sledding and sometimes even funny ones.

"When I was a kid we brought my

Goin' Sledding with MHS Students



165 students responded to a survey about many different winter activities. Here are the students you will see out on the hills.

mom sledding. She went down the hill and took out two kids with her and her sled, the kids' sled flew out of their hands and she took a metal saucer to the head," Barra said.

As for Sophomore Alexis Hall, she and her family go up to Minnesota to visit family, and they go sledding on many well-known hills up there.

"The Minnesota hills are not much different than the hills in Milton," Hall said.

She goes sledding a handful of times

with her family with many different types of sleds.

"My favorite sled is a wooden toboggan because it doesn't break as easily as the plastic ones and it goes pretty fast," Hall said.

Hall's family also had an amusing but potentially dangerous sledding experience.

"We went sledding and my brother split his chin open, and we were an hour away from any hospital so there was a lot of crying," Hall said.

December Birthdays



December 2nd

Owyn Berge

Isabelle Fischer

Brandon Kempa

Kelsey Kempa

Melissa Kempa

Claire Suiter

December 3rd

Hanna Anderson

Jenna Elfers

Paige Emerson

Hannah Kobelt

December 4th

Meghan Everett

Molly Jaeggi

Samuel Munger

Kimberly Peterson

Demitri Xiong

December 5th

Holly Morehart

Nolan Morehart

Matthew Pierce

Evan Powers

December 6th

Aisha Butler

Madelyn Miller

December 7th

Jossalyn Nottestad

December 8th

Chayton Jenson

Zachery Schilling

Jaelyn Starks

Emma Traxler

December 9th

Caleb Bilhorn

Alexandra Pingel

Kristiana Tardy

December 10th

Alexandria Gambrel

Laine Twist

December 11th

Ethan Grebe

Dylan Gregoire

Jasmine Powell

December 12th

Evan Chapas

Ella Ciminieri

Joseph Leverenz

Bethany Vidruk

Nathanael Weber

December 13th

Tyler Steinke

December 14th

Annyka Belmonte

Morgan Hudson

December 15th

Clayton Algrim Bender

Jordan Allen

Victoria Courtney

December 16th

Jacob Busse

Kassidy Carroll

Davis Holman

Zachary Obershaw

December 17th

Jacob Bolton

Ethan Burrows

Jacob Sass

December 18th

Holly Garber

December 19th

Markas Mory

Gabriel Natale

Caleb Nythus

Amelia Smithson

December 20th

Sydney Bilz

Lirim Fetovski

Madeleine Jarzen

Jean Marie Markham

Skylar McBride

Drake Nolan

Jaxon Ruppe

Joshua Weiss

Nicholas Wurslin

December 21st

Kendra Ellefson

Kang Pan

Kaylee Wilkins

December 22nd

Collin Garcia

Leah Kornely

Tarryn Mallon

Chase Miller

December 23rd

Abigail Kelley

Sara Scott

December 24th

Logan Peterson

Kaelyn Prop

December 25th

Andrew Hoard

December 26th

Emma Kruse

December 27th

Kameron Martin

Abbygail Ray

December 28th

Cade Austin

Ethan Hying

Zachery Leonard

December 29th

Karma Booker

Santa or St. Nick?



Picture from StNicholasCenter.org



Ella Rau
Although a majority of people celebrate Christmas, most people have no idea what St. Nicholas' Day is or the difference between the two.

Although leaving shoes out for St. Nicholas is less popular today, many families still celebrate by leaving their shoes out. "We put our shoes by our bedroom door and St. Nick fills them with candy and fruit, but he also fills our stockings with small gifts," says Grace Ruggles MHS junior.

Ruggles remarks how her family celebrates St. Nick's Day in a Catholic-Polish way. "My parents used to scare us with stories of Krampus and how on the night of St. Nick's, if we were naughty St. Nicholas would bring Krampus to visit our house and he would take us away!" remarks Ruggles.

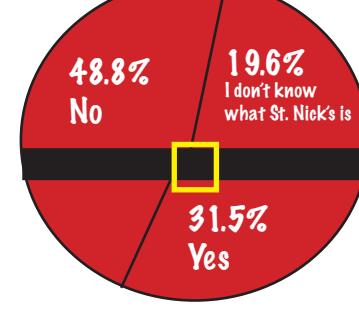
The legend is part of a centuries-old Christmas tradition in Germany, where Christmas celebrations begin in early December. Krampus was created as a counterpart to St. Nicholas, who rewarded children with sweets. Krampus has been known as the evil brother of St. Nick or Santa. Krampus traditionally punishes naughty children and announces his presence with eerie bells.

In European folklore, Krampus was a horned, anthropomorphic figure who is described as half-goat, half-demon who had no Christmas spirit and punished misbehaved children.

There are countless customs throughout religions and families, but ultimately, St. Nick's Day and Christmas are very traditionalized holidays that have evolved over time and developed around the world.

St. Nick's day was mainly celebrated through the Catholic religion as a Christian feast day where St. Nick would fill children's shoes with candy and other goodies. The tradition of receiving gifts began with Dutch children who would leave their shoes out. With the evolution of times, many religions celebrate St. Nick's Day.

Do you celebrate St. Nicholas Day?
162 responses



Wacky Holiday Traditions

"My brother and I often get each other really dumb presents, for example two years ago he got me a single slice of cheese." -Gage Fuchs

"If you don't wear an ugly sweater you don't get presents." -Olivia Hopp

"We wrap candy and other gifts in cellophane and take turns trying to unravel it with oven mitts on, and someone rolls a dice and once they get doubles you pass it on" -Tyler Smith

"We go bowling on Christmas day." -Logan Jushka

"Guessing a present until you get it right 1 guess a day then open on Christmas eve."

-Marijany Taormino

"We get a pig made out of peppermint and everytime a person whacks it they say what they're thankful for." -Zoey Devoe

"A silly tradition is the yearly political debate between my conservative father and liberal siblings." -Anna Mitchell

"We put Christmas hats on our farm animals." -Melysa Stutika

"My grandma always buys us our own watermelons for Christmas." -Angelia Fox

The Legend of Mistletoe



Madison Manor

Hallmark movies are a staple for the holiday season. The witty protagonist and cynical female lead, all wrapped into a perfect storyline featuring drama, conflict, and romance, finishing with a kiss under the mistletoe of Christmas Eve.

Mistletoe has subsequently become a symbol of the Christmas spirit, and a welcome sign for love during the holiday season. The question is, where did the legend of kissing under the mistletoe come from?

One simple google search would offer plenty of different answers to that very question. Some say it was the Greeks, some say it was the English, some even say it was the Nordic. This is a perfect example of how many different versions of history there can be.

Of course, the practice has been romanticized, yet there are still hun-

dreds of different stories behind the mythical practice. "I think there are so many different stories and myths about Mistletoe because each group of people has molded the story to fit their own cultural values," said MHS World History teacher, Kimberly Melms.

Undoubtedly, silly little traditions, suspicions, or stories are called myths for a reason. However, for some, it lands on an important piece of their history or culture. Small things like a kiss under a piece of mistletoe can make a great statement on how the world sees each other in a historical or cultural context.

"I think that history is a large factor in how humans interact with the world around them. Who we have been in the past and how the society grew up in has shaped our personal identities," said Melms.

Though many myths have proven to be false we can take a similar outlook on traditions. Obviously, peo-

ple know why we do these things but for some odd reason, though it may not be typical, they continue to do them anyway.

"Celebrating a holiday reminds me of the role that history plays in our present by all of the cultural traditions that are practiced," said Melms. Altogether, no one knows why we do these things, clearly small practices like these bring something to our lives worth keeping, no matter the reason.

For all the different ideas on what kissing under the mistletoe is always for, it is never people's job to speculate. So, whether it's an excuse to kiss someone, a desire to believe in a silly myth whose origins have yet to be traced, or just to add a little joy to the holidays; grab your partner and indulge in the practice of the mistletoe.

Please do not just go kiss random people, we are in a pandemic after all.



168 MHS students were surveyed on what type of tree they get for Christmas. 110 students said they get a fake tree, 54 students said they get a real tree, and 4 students said they do not get a tree.

Where is the Pickle?



Families that participate in the hidden pickle tradition spend Christmas morning searching for an ornament just like this one. Whoever finds the pickle usually gets to open the first gift, has bragging rights, or perhaps a unique family reward. Photo by Luke Hessenauer.

The tradition of hiding a pickle ornament deep in the twinkling lights, behind the silver and gold garland, on Christmas Eve in the family Christmas tree is growing in popularity.

Also, a holding German tradition is to open presents on Christmas Eve, not Christmas Day, again disproving the link between St. Nicholas and the hidden pickle.

According to an interview done on the "Today" show, only 8% of Germans knew of the tradition, and of that 8%, only 2% actually participated in the tradition.

Some believe that this history of the hidden pickle is an over-commercialization of the selling of a glass vegetable. But, how many people of Milton carry on the tradition in their homes?

Over 28% of the 170 responses to an MHS school-wide survey participate in the hidden pickle tradition.

Most students participate in the traditional way of a parent or elder of the house hides the pickle. Then

following with the child to first find the pickle gets to open the first gift. There were other variations of the tradition that had prizes of money or even ultimate bragging rights.

MHS Spanish teacher and pickle enthusiast, Ms. Elizabeth Evans and her family celebrate this tradition.

Her mother is the one who started the tradition, but she did not start it for Evans and her siblings, but rather for her grandchildren.

For their family, Evan's mother hides the pickle deep in their tree, and then the grandchildren, when told, look for it. The first to find the pickle gets the ultimate bragging rights for the year. "When the kids used to be little, she used to give them candy as the prize," said Evans.

All in all, the hidden pickle tradition is one big myth. Though it has become extremely popular starting here in the US in 2018, there are still many that have never heard of the tradition.

2020-21 NBA Season Starts



Aidan Conger
The NBA Bubble at the end of last season, was a success, to say the least, but with the coming season not being hosted in The Bubble, this season might pose more challenges with players and coaches already getting Covid, and this season hasn't even started yet.

In all of sports history, this is the shortest offseason ever for a professional sport. 71 days is all these players got before having to go back and play a whole NBA season. The preseason games started December 11 and the official season starts on December 22.

The NBA has already set out some rules and regulations for players and coaches to follow.

All professional sports just like everything else was postponed due to the Corona Virus. The NBA was in the middle of their season when Covid hit which halted play and practice.

Adam Silver, the commissioner of the NBA, decided to hold the rest of the NBA season inside "The Bubble". Walt Disney World in Orlando was the isolation zone for the rest of the season.

No players were allowed to leave and nobody but players, coaches, trainers, etc. were allowed in, the rules were strictly enforced and followed by everyone. Throughout the 3 months, they were in The Bubble, there were no positive Covid tests among the players, coaches, trainers, etc.

The COVID rule book for this year is 158 pages long, some of the main rules are: players and coaches can only eat out at approved restaurants, in a fully privatized space.

Players and coaches are not allowed to enter: bars/lounges/clubs/live entertainment/public gyms/spas/pools/or large social gatherings of more than 15 people.

Families of players and coaches will also have access to free twice a week testing to ensure family safety. The league says that violations that cause COVID-19 spread, that causes a schedule adjustment, or impact their

team or other teams could result in: fines, suspensions, adjustment, or loss of draft choices and/or game forfeiture.

MHS basketball coach and English teacher Ian Kirst has knowledge of trying to start a basketball season amid a pandemic.

"Obviously, the NBA got it right with the bubble the first time around.

With the NBA now following similar models as other sport leagues, they will have similar problems. Considering the NBA season takes place indoors and during the winter, I expect there will be many canceled games and players sitting out. At this point, I think the NBA and other sporting leagues anticipate this and just plan to fight through it to have a season."

Kirst said.

Traveling amid the pandemic is a challenge for teams in this new season. The NBA is searching for ways to allow freedom, but limit the exposure to the virus.

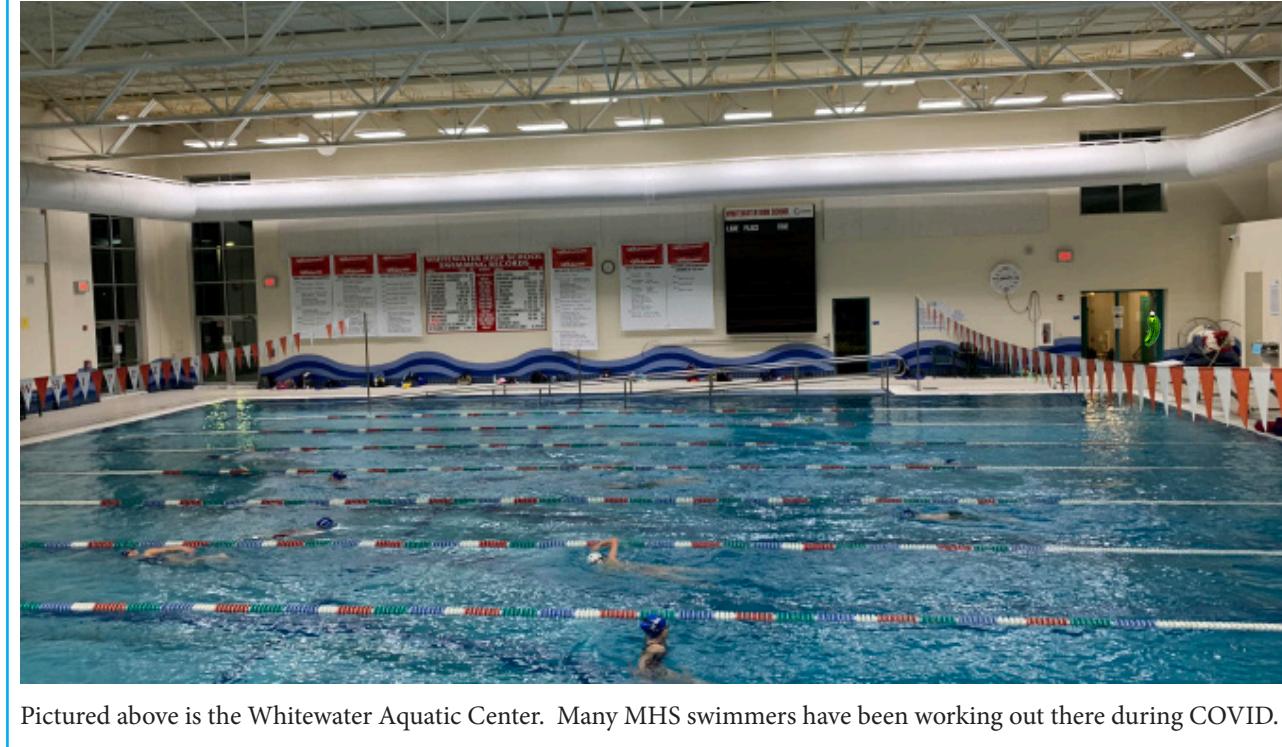
"I think it will be difficult. Organizations can provide players guidelines to follow, but the same issues will occur that we see everyday in society. Some players will follow them and others will not.

It is also difficult for some guidelines to work, they will not only be set for the players, but anyone within the players immediate circle. I have to imagine this will be difficult to maintain considering the NBA season is so long," Kirst said.

Until the season gets underway, nobody will know how the NBA season will play out, at this point, as long as a team can put 5 men on the basketball court, then they are going to play.

The NBA will do everything in their power to get through the season with no stoppage of play and limit the number of rescheduling games and most importantly limit the amount of positive COVID -19 cases within players, coaches, trainers, etc.

Milton Swim Shuts Down



Pictured above is the Whitewater Aquatic Center. Many MHS swimmers have been working out there during COVID.



Jade Fladhammer Milton High School swimmers continue to search for a stable schedule and pool to keep in shape for the promising upcoming season that is scheduled for February 15, 2021.

Many athletes in Rock County have been affected by the closure of schools. Most have had their sports seasons postponed or canceled because of Covid-19 and are forced to look at other places for gyms, pools, and tracks.

Student-athlete Bailey Ratzburg swims for the MAC club team in Madison. Though she still practices, she is upset about Milton's season being postponed. "It was kinda frustrating and sad because I feel like I was losing out on 4 months of memories and opportunities with my teammates. If the season is shortened I will be grateful that we can have that

opportunity, but I don't know what to expect with everything this year," Ratzburg said.

There are still swim clubs open and practicing along with open pools in Whitewater, Janesville, and Milwaukee, although the largest amount of time allowed to swim is usually 40 minutes to an hour.

This means many are still getting in the pool and swimming, just not with teammates, which can be unhelpful. "This is the first time since I was 7 that I haven't competed. I feel almost lost without swim and my teammates as it is such a big part of my life," Ratzburg said.

Milton swimmers Maddy Schuetz and Alyssa Fons swim for the club team J-Hawks in Whitewater, and just like Ratzburg, feel as if they aren't getting a season. "Overall this season has been very different than last year's. It is a completely different dynamic, and it is much harder to

have the same 'team' experience with friends," Schuetz said.

Pool time and the lack of team bonding are not the only things that are different, so are the precautions taken for both swimmers teams.

"This year, my season has been different than others as I don't get to see all of my teammates. My season over the fall took place with my club team in whitewater, rather than my high school team here in Milton," Fons said.

Not only is this year different from earlier years, but the precautions are also a major part of the inconsistent season. "When we come to practice we are required to wear a mask until we get into the pool and then as soon as we get out of the pool we put the mask back on. Everyone inside of the Aquatic Center is also required

See "Swim" p. 7

Board Reinstates Winter Sports, Teams Ready to Play

Milton winter sports are back on as of a vote conducted by the Milton School Board on Monday, December 14th. The vote was 4-3 in favor of having winter sports renewed after an initial vote that favored 5-1 to not have sports.

This allows for the first competition by Milton high school students since March at the beginning of the boys and girls state basketball state tournaments.

Boys and girls hockey both had their tournaments, other sports had their respective tournaments but both basketball tournaments were canceled.

Now almost 9 months after the Covid-19 pandemic swept across the country, our winter athletes have a short period of time to fit their seasons in before fall sports start in late

February. However, one sport will have a difficult and tricky road ahead of them.

Milton's Hockey Co-Op which will be going into its 7th season as a program will welcome 3 new schools to its co-op that was previously composed of just Milton and neighboring Fort Atkinson. The new schools are Evansville, Williams Bay, and Bigfoot.

The addition of these schools will help out with numbers immensely as Milton struggled to have a JV program last year. Jeffery Spiwak Milton's new athletic director was all aboard on adding the schools, "I think it will benefit the program long term by expanding the co-op. It will allow for a consistent JV level to occur and help develop players."

Milton's Head Coach Steve Zartman also believes that this will help his

team grow in talent and numbers. "A lot of how "good" we become is dependent on how quickly we can build some chemistry and get the boys playing as a team," said Zartman.

Practices started last week at their home ice rink in Stoughton at the Mandt center. There are some strict guidelines from both the school and Dane county.

Masks have to be worn by players and staff at all times on and off the ice, it will be a new challenge for the kids physically and mentally.

There is a slim chance they will hold a home game at the Mandt center due to Dane county's restrictions. Because of this Milton will look at an all away game schedule that will consist of 7 locked in games and possibly 6 or 7

See "Hockey" p. 7

HOT SEAT & COOL THRONE



L- Tractorcito Season...

L- Fantasy Football Punishments

L- Christmas Cookies

S- Avocado toast is overrated

J- Claire sucks.(The Bachelor)



L- Hunter Biden vs Russia

L- New Air Pods are headphones

L- Steelers are Frauds.

S- Ketchup is very disgusting.

J- Pumpkin anything has no flavor

MHS Winter Sports Schedule

Girls Basketball

- 12/21 Practice starts
- 1/4 Away at Evansville (V only)
- 1/7 Away at Brodhead
- 1/8 Home vs Craig
- 1/15 Home vs Parker
- 1/16 Home vs Monroe
- 1/21 Home vs Waunakee
- 1/23 Away at Craig
- 1/26 Home vs Fort Atkinson
- 1/28 Away at Waterford
- 2/1 Home vs Edgewood
- 2/4 Away at Beaver Dam

Boys Basketball

- 12/21 Practice Starts
- 1/4 Away at West Allis Hale
- 1/5 Away at East Troy
- 1/9 Away at Oshkosh North
- 1/12 Home vs Monroe
- 1/14 Home vs Craig
- 1/16 Home vs Monroe
- 1/19 Away at Reedsburg
- 1/23 Home vs Edgewood
- 1/28 Away at Waterford
- 1/29 Away at Beaver Dam
- 2/2 Home vs Westosha Central
- 2/5 Away at Cuba City
- 2/9 Home vs Jefferson
- 2/11 Home vs Fort Atkinson
- 2/13 Home vs Sauk Prairie

Wrestling

- 12/21 Practice starts
- 1/5 Home vs Watertown
- 1/13 Home vs Waunakee
- 1/22 Home vs Mukwonago
- 1/30 Regionals

Gymnastics

- 1/4 Practice starts
- 1/26 Away at Elkhorn
- 2/2 Away at Parker
- 2/5 Away at Baraboo
- 2/11 Away at Reedsburg
- 2/13 Away at Craig

Boys Hockey

- 12/18 Practice starts
- 1/2 Away at New Berlin
- 1/4 Away at Monroe
- 1/7 Away at Sauk Prairie
- 1/8 Away at Baraboo (JV)
- 1/14 Away at DeForest
- 1/18 Away at Baraboo (JV)
- 1/19 Away at Tomah
- 1/21 Away at Reedsburg
- 1/23 Away at Dodgeville (JV)
- 1/26 Away at Reedsburg
- 1/28 Away at Sauk
- 1/30 Away at Monroe
- 1/31 Away at Kenosha

Boys Swim

- 12/21 Practice starts
- 1/4 Home vs DeForest
- 1/7 Home vs McFarland
- 1/12 Away at Parker
- 1/18 Home vs Craig
- 1/21 Home vs Waunakee



The Traditional Wearing of Ugly Holiday Sweaters



Ugly sweaters have been a part of many peoples' holiday traditions for a long time. Some sweaters are uglier than others but one thing for sure, they definitely bring a fun spirit to the holidays.

Ugly sweaters are sweaters that have too much decoration on them. A few examples of 'too much' would be excessive glitter, things hanging off of the sweater, things that should not be on a sweater that are sewn onto the sweater, and lots and lots of bright colors.

The tradition of ugly holiday sweaters started in the 1950's when they were seen as artistic and tasteful. People wore them around the holidays as a fashion statement. In the 1980's, actors started wearing ugly sweaters in movies for fun, and just recently they have become a fun and trendy holiday tradition.

Although ugly christmas sweaters are a big tradition in America and other places around the world, Milton High School also has many people who participate in this tradition.

"Ugliness is just an ironic beauty in an ugly sweater," says Lyman Elliott, junior at Milton High School. Elliott believes that ugly sweaters are not ugly at all, but have their own sense of beauty and others should appreciate them. Elliott's favorite and only ugly sweater has a Santa with iconic sunglasses, holding up a thumbs up.

According to a survey taken by MHS students, 62 out of 165 people who responded, said they will be wearing an ugly christmas sweater this holiday season, and 103 people said they will not be wearing an ugly sweater this holiday season.

Tambray Karkosh, MHS library media assistant, claims to have 16 ugly holiday and christmas sweaters. On the contrary from Elliott's beliefs, Karkosh thinks that an ugly sweater can be considered ugly if it has 'too much' on it. "I have one sweater that has plastic letters sewn on it and tassels on the bottom," said Karkosh.

Another big fan of ugly christmas sweaters is Ryan Neuenschwander, social studies teacher at MHS. Neuenschwander thinks that companies these days are trying too hard to make fashionable trendy sweaters, he prefers the old school ones. "I like old school sweaters. Other places like Target are trying too hard. I want an old school 40-year-old sweater that has been loved by a grandma," says Neuenschwander.

Whether made, borrowed, or bought ugly sweaters are the only way to go during the holiday season. Wearing an ugly holiday sweater can be a fun way to start a new holiday tradition with family and friends.

On Thursday December 17th, Milton Highschool hosted an "Ugly Sweater Day" for all of the students and staff of MHS. Everyone was encouraged to wear their ugliest sweater to show school spirit.

Staff Dazzle On Ugly Sweater Day

Thursday, December 17 was the day that looking good meant looking ugly. As part of Winter Spirit Week, students and staff were encouraged to wear their "Ugly" holiday sweaters. Student participation was minimal, but staff members took advantage of the opportunity to don their favorite cozy tops!



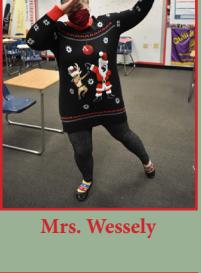
Mr. Wendlandt & Mr. Newy



Mr. Poling



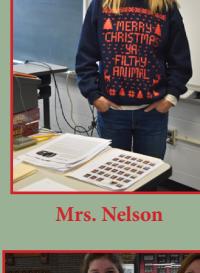
Mr. Meinertz



Mrs. Wessely



Ms. Watson



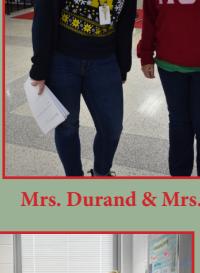
Mrs. Nelson



Mrs. Wilkinson



Mrs. Bilhorn



Mrs. Durand & Mrs. Shultz



Mrs. Hammil, Mr. Dorn & Mrs. Ramsden



Mrs. Kirst



Mrs. Mair



The Counseling Office

New Year, New You?



The end of the year brings with it new hope for the New Year. As New Year's resolutions form in consequence, there are generally two perspectives; either they work, or they don't.

Renee Stieve, Milton High School psychology teacher, has found success with small resolutions in the past and believes they can be successful. She said, "Truthfully the best resolution I've had is when I've tried a small goal, such as I will work out 3 times a week rather than I'll lose 20lbs. It is manageable, easily tracked, and specific."

Senior Ali Suchanek's opinion lies on the opposite side. She said, "I have never made a resolution and I don't think they would work for me."

So what's the truth? Does the New Year really guarantee success, or is it just a big fluke?

People have been celebrating the

New Year by making resolutions for thousands of years. The ancient Babylonians, during a New Years festival, made a promise to the gods. If they followed through with that promise the gods would bless them, but if they did not, they would be subject to the anger of the gods. Though its purpose in ancient practices has evolved to be more lighthearted, it still acts as a way to celebrate a fresh start.

The hope for lasting life changes stands, but most are unsuccessful with breaking old habits and finding new goals. Stieve said, "I think many people try and shoot for the moon and have huge goals that might not be attainable." These "shoot for the moon" resolutions can be things like an immediate drastic change in diet, or quitting bad habits cold turkey. There are many ways to find success with resolutions, despite the high 80% rate of failure according to Forbes.

Finding smaller, more specific

resolutions instead of fighting for unachievable goals increases the likelihood for success. These kinds of resolutions can include reconnecting with an old friend, reading more books, or finding a way to volunteer.

To have a greater chance at success Stieve said "Psychologically speaking, write things down, make yourself accountable. Use social media or friends to keep you on track. Track your progress, write down baby steps to your end goal. While it may seem silly and like a waste of time, it really is impactful." Consistency and accountability are key.

To those who wish to pursue resolutions, Suchanek suggested, "If it seems hard, keep pushing at it and don't give up even when you want to." With this year coming to an end, it's a great time to start forming goals for the next. Even the smallest changes can have a big impact.

Small Businesses Persevere Through Pandemic



ACE Hardware, located on John Paul Avenue in Milton has remained open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic but has had to adjust their procedures to keep their employees and customers safe. Photo by Julia Steinke.



Morgan Selover

Small businesses are being challenged a lot, especially during this very uncertain time.

Delaney Blabaum, from Ace Hardware, says that since Ace

Hardware is an essential business, they have been very busy during the pandemic

Blabaum grew up in Milton and started working at Ace Hardware when she was 15. Her favorite part of working at Ace Hardware is that it has "a sense of community" and "a small-town feel" Blabaum says.

Some of the challenges that the employees at Ace Hardware have had to face due to the pandemic are getting used to wearing masks and trying to maintain a 6-foot distance. One of the very important things that the employees have learned is

that not only are they being challenged, but "the customers are being challenged as well," says Blabaum.

Some of those challenges customers were facing were having to get used to wearing a mask, social distancing, and more.

Ace Hardware never closed down during the pandemic, but the store hours were reduced, and they lost a few employees. One of the reasons for reducing the hours was for the staff's protection.

At Ace Hardware there are four high school cashiers and four high school kids on the floor, which means eight total high school employees.

Student-workers at Old Fashion Bakery in Janesville are also feeling the effects of COVID-19.

Chloe Groebner, a sophomore at Milton High School, works at Old

Fashion Bakery in Janesville.

Groebner has been working there since around October 17. "I'd say my favorite part is when little kids come in and they get so excited over donuts and it makes them happy when I put it in the bag for them," says Groebner.

One of the challenges Groebner has noticed due to the pandemic is that they don't get as many customers as they used to before the pandemic.

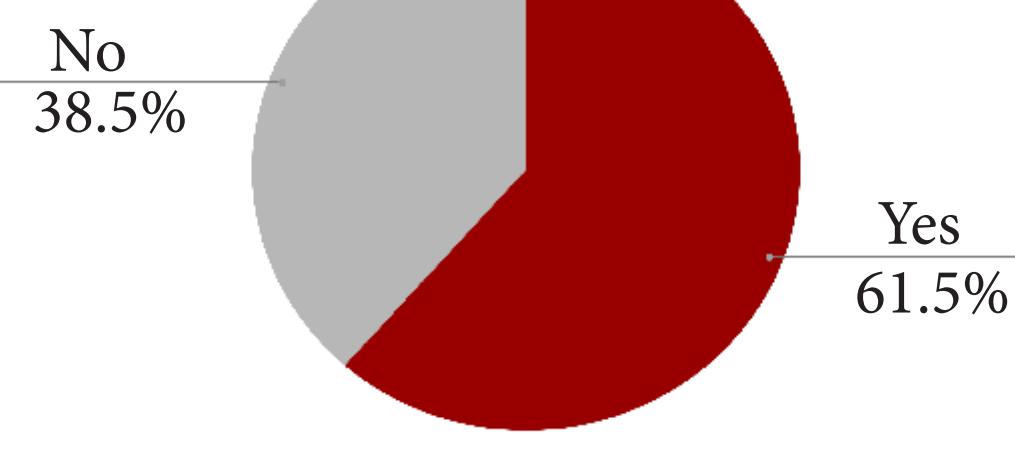
Another problem is the people who don't wear masks in the bakery.

Just like most other businesses during this time, customers are expected to wear a mask while in the store.

If a customer comes in without a mask, the employees will kindly ask them to put one on.

Shopping Local?

In a recent survey, MHS students were asked whether they have already or plan to shop at local businesses this holiday season. 161 students responded.



"Course Selection" from p. 1

Pictured above is the MHS counseling office. Even though a pandemic year has made it a bit difficult counselors and staff have been working hard to prepare arena scheduling.

Part of the flexibility students will have is deciding what classes they will take during which periods.

"I think it's nice because students can decide to a certain extent when they'll take classes. If you learn math better in the morning, you can choose to take math class in the morning," Gruber said.

Seniors will get first pick, then their window will close, then juniors will pick, then sophomores, and then the counselors will schedule the incoming freshmen.

"We want seniors to be able to choose and have all the credits that they need. We don't want a senior to not be able to get into a class they need to graduate, so we need upperclassmen to have first dibs. Part of the reason we're going towards this anyway is this is how colleges schedule, so it gives you

a chance to dip your toes into that process," Gruber said.

Another difference from last year is that students will be able to see how many seats are available in each course as they register, so they'll know right away if they got into the class or not. If a class is full, it won't even show up as an option.

The window for students to complete their wishlist closed on Friday, December 11.

Students will be receiving more information about how to do the arena scheduling at the end of March.

At the end of May students will get their finalized schedules.

"We wanted you all to have your schedules before you leave for summer," Gruber said.

"Operation Christmas Child" from p. 2

Items such as hygiene products, school supplies, and fun toys make a big difference in the lives of the children who receive the shoeboxes.

Last year, OCC shipped shoeboxes to 10.5 million children in over 100 countries. Lyke said, "I love that they're hitting countries that have never heard the Gospel before. That's a beautiful part of the project."

The true mission of the project is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The kids who receive a shoebox are also given the opportunity to attend a discipleship class.

"It's not just a shoebox, it's a discipleship program," Lyke said.

According to the OCC website, more than 11.2 million boys and girls have made a decision to follow Christ.

The organization and program also hope to create community in the areas they serve. "Local Christians

who know the culture and language best are given effective resources and a solid Biblical foundation so that they can communicate the Gospel within their own communities," states the OCC website.

Even for the volunteers involved at any point in the process, this project is life-changing. "People who come into our church and also our church members can be exposed to the Gospel through a community of believers doing this project together," said Lyke.

Lyke's message for anyone wanting to be involved in this project or a similar one is to "find a project you're passionate about and use your talents to help, even if it's in a simple way. And the important thing is to stick with it! Because everyone has unique talents and gifts that they can use to help."

"Hockey" from p. 5

more games depending on times and availability of ice.

This season will be a crucial year for the Co-Op as it will say goodbye to one of its most successful classes to come through. The 2021 class has been a very crucial part of the team's formation ever since they came in as freshmen. Zartman and his team will look to have its first .500 or better season in its history. "A strong senior core on down, we are a pretty solid group. We'll do our best to put ourselves in the best position to win each night," said Zartman. The Redhawks will play its first game of the season on January 2nd against Whitefish Bay, they were knocked out of playoffs last year by Whitefish Bay but will hope to avenge that loss to start the season on the right foot.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Principal Bilhorn and Associate Principal Mr. Kleinschmidt as Santa Claus and Buddy the Elf respectively, made a list, checked it twice, and visited all the boys and girls at MHS last Friday. Many MHS staff members have been bringing their young children to work with them, so this presented a unique opportunity to celebrate the holidays with some bright-eyed believers.



Your 2 Cents

MHS chimes in on:

"What is the flavor that comes to mind when you think of the Christmas season?"



McKaylynn Moen
Senior

"I would say the flavor that comes to mind is peppermint, hot chocolate, and Christmas tree. Not like the flavor but like the scent you know like the candle."



Hayden Wrolstad
Junior

"Peppermint because of the fact one of the main candies sold around the holidays is Candy Canes. Candy Canes are peppermint canes that are really only seen during the holidays and can be used as decorations for a lot of things that are holiday centric."



Jax Wells
Sophomore

"The flavor that comes to mind when I think of Christmas is bad tasting chocolate from the advent calendars my aunt gets me every year."



Tyler Fischer
Freshman

"Peppermint is the flavor that comes to mind. Everyone has peppermint flavored things for Christmas. It's almost a tradition for everyone in December."

"Swim" from p. 5

to wear a mask if they are outside of the water. Currently, we are also only allowed to have two or three people in a lane at one time, and we have to be on opposite sides of the lane," Schuetz said.

This is also what Bailey Ratzburg is doing at MAC, "Everything at where I am practicing is very different now with precautions. I have been going back and forth with training by myself and with my club team and when we train there can only be one person on each side of the lane. I wear a mask all the way until I get behind my lane by myself. I also have to have my temperature taken anytime I walk into the pool," Ratzburg said. If Milton does open up, these would be some of the same precautions.

Jeff Spiwak, the Athletic Director at Milton and former Associate Principal/Athletic Director at Clinton helped make the decision to move fall and eventually winter sports to the spring. He explained how a great amount of time went into scheduling and shifting seasons around resulted by COVID-19.

"Since summer, we have com-

pletely reworked Fall and Spring season one time already and prior to the winter season being suspended indefinitely, we were on our 4th rendition of a winter schedule for our teams - that's practice schedules, games, game workers, officials, and transportation completely scheduled," Spiwak said.

MHS had to come to an agreement on whether to go virtual from Thanksgiving break until January 19. "Anytime we are dealing with COVID-19 related things or decisions, you tend to see a pretty close to 50/50 split with how people are reacting to what is happening."

COVID-19 has become very political and very polarizing - there are those who error on the side of safety and those who error on the side opening up," Spiwak said.

All of the swimmers at Milton have been positive about the unknowingness of seasons. "Knowing that I may not have a season this year is understandable, yet very sad. I enjoy competing and spending time with the girls on the team," Fons said.

"Since summer, we have com-

7

Amazon Gift Guide 2020

The Holiday Season is here and with that comes lots of Christmas shopping. Due to the limited capacity in stores and extra safety precautions that have to be taken this year, Christmas shopping will look very different. Here are 10 trendy gifts that can be purchased on Amazon without having to leave home!



1 Scratch Off Movie Poster
\$29.97



2 3 Pack of Blue Light Glasses
\$16.98



3 Rechargeable Hand Warmer
\$27.99



4 Tile- Location Tracker
\$29.97



5 Macrame Plant Holders
\$26.98



6 Wireless Charging Station
\$25.99



7 Weighted Blanket
\$69.99



8 Amazon Alexa Show 5
\$44.99



9 Smart Plugs \$25.99



10 Keurig Mini
\$29.97



Elvis Presley

Every edition of MHS Today, Aidan will pick an artist from the 50's to the 90's and pick that artists best song, Aidan's Favorite, Best song when you need a pick me up, and the best mellow song.

Best Song: Can't Help Falling In Love

Aidan's Favorite: Suspicious Minds

The Best Pick Me Up: Bosa Nova Baby

Mellow Yellow: Love Me Tender

Emma's Top 10 Christmas Movies

National Lampoons Christmas Vacation

Home Alone 2

Daddy's Home 2

The Grinch (2000)

Elf

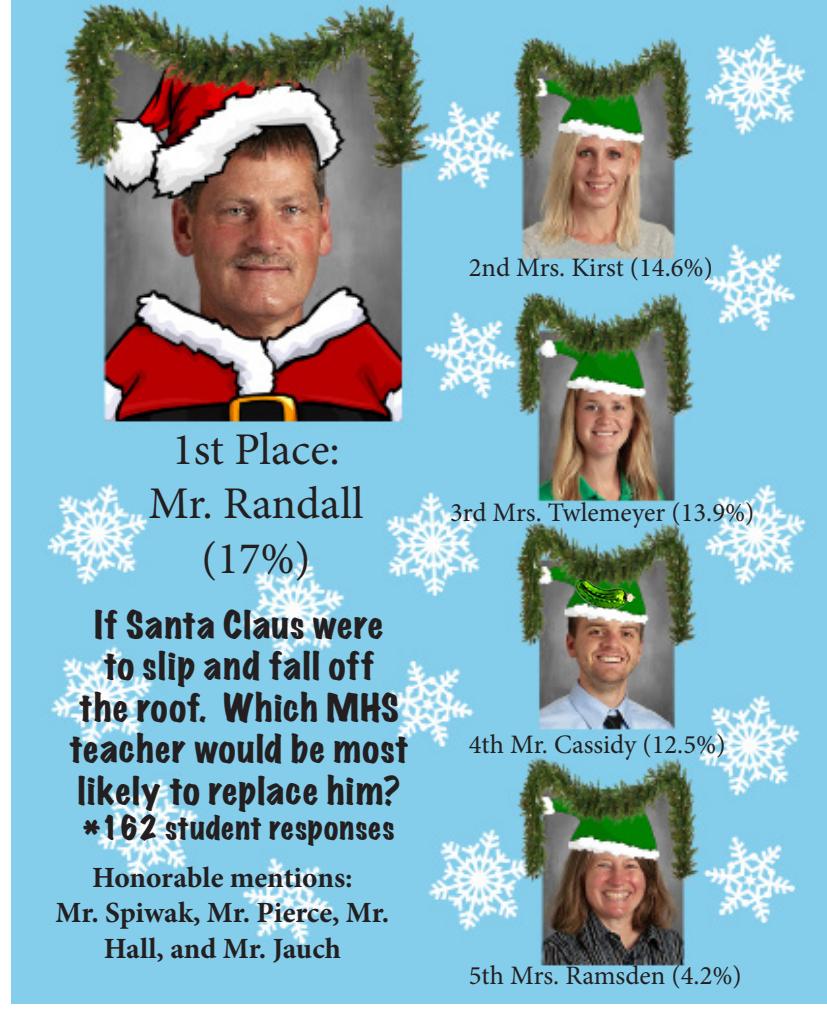
A Charlie Brown Christmas

Catch a Christmas Star

The Polar Express

Miracle on 34th Street

A Christmas Story



TOP 10 CHRISTMAS SONGS

1. All I Want For Christmas Is You

Mariah Carey

2. Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree

Brenda Lee

3. It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas

Michael Bublé

4. Jingle Bell Rock

Bobby Helms

5. Feliz Navidad

Jose Feliciano

6. A Holly Jolly Christmas

Burl Ives

7. It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year

Andy Williams

8. You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch

Thurl Ravenscroft

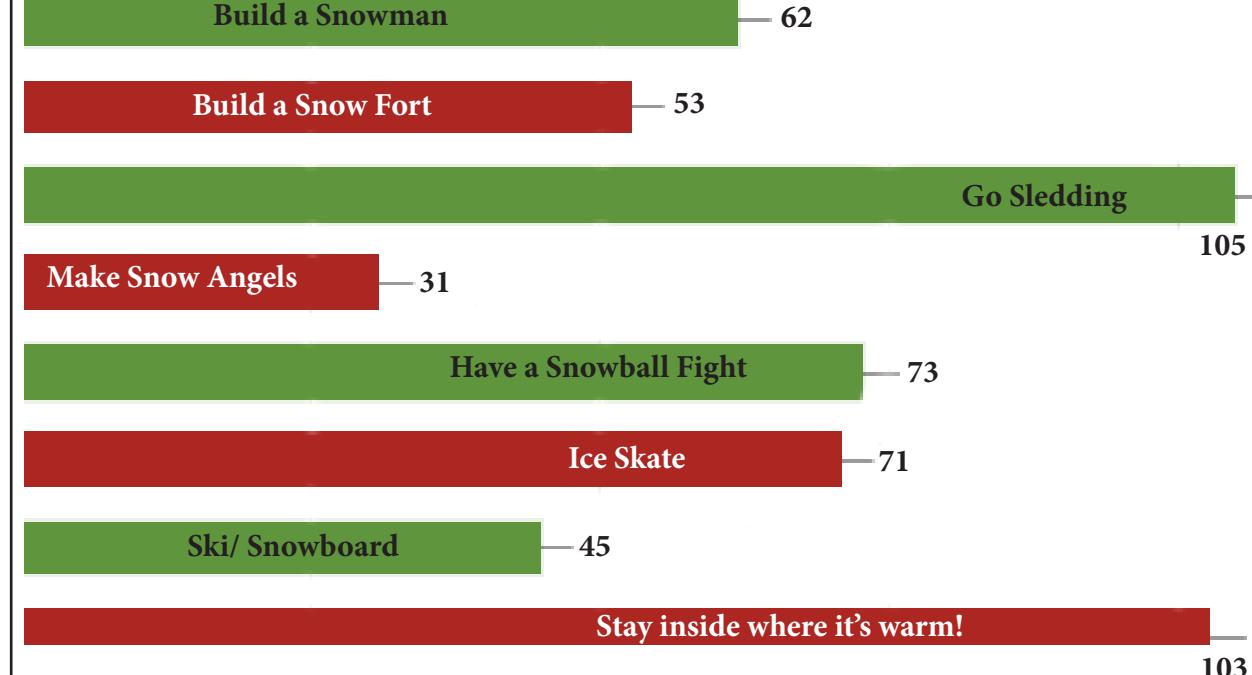
9. White Christmas

Bing Crosby

10. Last Christmas

Wham!

Fun in the Flakes



Students were asked about their favorite activities to do in the snow. 162 students identified any and all activities they enjoy!

Sammi's BETTER Joke Corner

- Where does a snowman hide his money?
- In a snow bank
- What did Santa ask Rudolph about the weather?
- Is it going to rain, dear?
- What is the best Christmas present?
- A broken drum, you just can't beat it!
- Who is Santa's favorite singer?
- Elf-is Presley
- What do elves learn at school?
- The elf-alphabet
- What do you call a bankrupt Santa?
- Saint Nickel-less

Holiday Edition

