Holidays: The Origins of Christmas

A look back at the origins of Christmas. Spoiler Alert!

By: Elyan Bedolla

Christmas is a holiday that commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ and is celebrated by Christians and others alike. Many ethnicities celebrate this holiday in different ways. For example, Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah, Germans celebrate the Winter Solstice, and Christians and Americans alike celebrate Christmas. Our traditions are that we set up an evergreen tree in our homes with colorful ornaments on the tree. A fictitious character named Santa Claus or Saint Nick supposedly visits your house and leaves presents under your tree for you to open on Christmas day.

Continued page A2

Current Events: Make a Wish Foundation

By: Carlos Ontiveros

Make-A-Wish foundation was created by Frank Shankwitz, Scott Stahi, Linda and Bergendahl-Pauling. They started this because of a 7 year old kid fighting Leukemia named Christopher Grecieus who always wanted to become a police officer. They connected him with Tommy Austin, a police officer, making the youngster’s wish come true. For kids who are going through the darkest times Make-A-Wish Foundation allows kids to make a wish for they always wanted. They can wish for whatever they imagine. From going to get a computer all the way to meeting a famous person. Children only get one wish, but get to enjoy the benefits of their wish for a long time.

Some of the conditions for Make-a-Wish are that the kid is between 2 and a half to 18 years old They have to have a life threatening illness. They grant wishes for many illnesses including all life threatening illnesses and terminal conditions. If the child gets the wish they also get support for the medical bills that they had to pay.

Some of the coolest wishes were a kid wanted to help other kids in the hospital. He asked for a ps4 in the child's room. Also a boy wanted to become a mermaid. They had him participate in swimming lessons and put him in a costume that was waterproof. Then they let him swim in the suit.

Works Cited

The Origins of Christmas
Continued...

It is believed that Jesus Christ was born on around December 25th, 221. However some claim he was born in the summer months. What we know is a priest named Sextus Julius Africantus had “assigned” March 25th as the birthday of Jesus Christ.

The Christian church did not approve of this so he added 9 months to this date to line up on December 25th, 221. Another theory is Jesus’s birthday was supposed to line up with the Romans celebration of the Winter Solstice. Most scholars don’t know why we celebrate Christmas on this day. We may never know.

On the other hand, Christmas is celebrated by people all over the globe Christians and Americans alike. Most people celebrate with a feast consisting of things found at a Thanksgiving feast such as a turkey, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce. As well as vegetables like parsnips, carrots, and broccoli.

However the most enjoyed part is delivering gifts to your loved ones and waking up Christmas morning and opening them under the Christmas tree. This holiday is loved by many and is said to be their favorite holiday. Finally, SANTA IS NOT REAL.

Holidays:
Veterans’ Day
By: Carlos Ontiveros

The Wonderful Mr. Norum
Norum poses casually exuting excellence
Photo Credit: Carlos Ontiveros

We celebrate the people who served the Army and thank them for serving our country safe and here is one of our who worked as a soldier and now a P.E. teacher who is amazing at teaching us games that we enjoy. He is one of the teachers that's never shy and makes people laugh, the name is Mr. Norum.

We ask him a few questions that tells what he did and worked for all the days in the army. He served in the Army getting special rewards like the leadership, Airborne, and green Beret.

Before he went in the forces he wanted to become a basketball player, a cop, or a teacher. He wanted to travel and challenge himself so he could improve on himelf. Then he was in the special forces training for 6 years and got to meet cool people and blow stuff up. After Mr. Norum served in the army, he became a teacher to teach students to help with their community by staying positive.

Birthdays:
November-January
Happy birthday to our wonderful staff!
By: Lisbette Gomez

Works Cited
Current Events: Winter Events
Fun things to do in the Rogue Valley for Christmas time

By: Ryan Fish

The holidays are for spending time with your family. Some fun things to do in winter are ice skate, drink hot coco, eat good food, get a Christmas tree, and go shopping. Here are a couple of fun events that will be going on in Oregon.

Oregon Chocolate Festival
Location: 2525 Ashland St, Ashland, OR 97520
Days: March 6th – 8th, 2020
Time: 11:00am - 4:00pm
Cost: Ticket $20 and $30 For a two-day pass

The Oregon Chocolate Festival is a festival where you will tour the Ashland Hills Hotel and get hot chocolate. 10% of all the tickets will go towards children's hospital care.

Other Activities at Pear Blossom Park Include:
- Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Coloring Contest with Prizes (starts @3:30 pm)
- Photo opportunities with Santa
- Live Performances
- Winter Lights Candy Cane Hunt
- Booths & Activities

Free Santa Event at the Rogue Valley Mall
Location: Rogue Valley Mall 1600 North Riverside Ave Medford, OR 97501
Date: Sat, December 7, 2019
Time: 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM PST

Santa Claus at the Mall
Photo Credit: Rogue Valley Mall

Works Cited

Holidays: The True History of Thanksgiving
It’s not what you may think

By: Louis Lim

The true history of Thanksgiving is not just a time of friendship between the Pilgrims and the Native Americans. No, it’s with starvation, diseases, and massacres to both the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Tribe (the Indians they met) of Massachusetts. First of all, the Pilgrims were Englishmen and got exiled to Holland or today, the Netherlands, because they broke off from the Church of England, but they left in search of religious freedom. It’s fair to say that the Pilgrims left England to find religious freedom, but that wasn’t the primary motive that propelled them to North America. Also, the king of England, King James, resented them and glad when they went to the Americas because he didn’t want them to spread the religion in England.
What Exactly Happened to the Pilgrims?

Starvation. When the Pilgrims came to the Americas, the group of Puritans or really the Separatists, did not land on a rock that they named Plymouth but just named the colony, Plymouth. Also, they had to pay a debt for the world-famous Mayflower ship so they planned to fish in the new Colony of Plymouth but the Pilgrims landed in 1620 in the Autumn so they couldn't fish. Furthermore, the Pilgrims had a debt, but also a harsh winter to see. The Pilgrims tried to survive on stale food left over from their long voyage in the winter. Many of the Pilgrims were sick. Many of them died, probably of pneumonia and scurvy. Of the 132 Pilgrims and crew who left England, only fifty-three of them survived the first winter. Moreover, the crops from Europe failed and game like deer was scarce, so they raided graves of the Patuxet Indians and Wampanoag Tribe to survive.

Before the Pilgrims’ Thanksgiving

The Spanish explorer who came to the Americas before the Pilgrims.
“Fifty-six years before the Pilgrims celebrated their feast, Spanish explorer Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles arrived on the coast of Florida. He came ashore on September 8, 1565, naming the land on which he stepped “St. Augustine” in honor of the saint on whose feast day, in August.”

Credit: History.com

However, the Pilgrims were not the first people to come to what we called the U.S, really the Spanish did. And even before the Pilgrims’ “First Thanksgiving” the Spanish celebrated many harvest festivals with the natives in Florida and Mexico and was well before the Pilgrims (about 56 years). Moreover, the famous native named by the settlers as “Squanto” was actually a Patuxet slave from the coast of Massachusetts and got captured from English setters, but also, he learned English. So, Squanto was then freed from being a slave, but when he got to his former home, the tribe of the Patuxet, died because of European diseases and plagues. The Wampanoag tribe leader Massasoit Ousamequin, took him in to be a translator for the English. In the end, it worked as the settlers could decide what to do and to not start a war with them. But in a few years, they did, (The Pequot War).

Thanksgiving Myths

Thanksgiving today is what we think about what happened to the Pilgrims, but isn’t. First, there were probably no turkeys at the 1621 Thanksgiving, but most likely deer. We have 19th century author and magazine editor named Sarah Josepha Hale to thank for the Thanksgiving holiday we celebrate today. Hale had read about the 1621 feast and decided to use it as a model for an annual holiday. She published in the popular Godey’s Lady’s Book recipes for turkey and stuffing and pumpkin pie and started traditions that had nothing to do with the colonists. She successfully lobbied President Abraham Lincoln, who in 1863 agreed to declare Thanksgiving an annual holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November every year.

Second, Historians believe the "first" Thanksgiving in 1621 was just a regular English harvest celebration, which is why there's very little historical record of the event. Third, while there's historical evidence that a feast was held in 1621, there's no evidence any Native Americans were invited. Fourth, the 1621 event between the settlers and the Wampanoag tribe — which, again, may or may not have happened — was a one-time deal, and the relations between the pilgrims and Native Americans deteriorated shortly after. What is believed to be an annual tradition either didn't happen at all or ended after that "first" year. (Which, again, was probably not the "first" Thanksgiving).

A few years later, in 1637, the settlers attacked the Wampanoag tribe in retaliation for a murder the settlers believed the Wampanoag committed by burning a nearby settlers’ village. The settlers killed around 500 Native Americans that day. This holiday is a blatant one with no significance to our current Thanksgiving. Even the governor of Plymouth reportedly wrote that every Thanksgiving Day would be in honor of that unjustly massacre of 500 people, it's not like the Thanksgiving we celebrate today! Also, we in the U.S are not the only one who celebrate Thanksgiving.
Many countries also celebrate something like Thanksgiving in which Canada, Japan, Brazil, Germany, some of the Caribbean islands, Liberia and more, have a similar holiday. In the end we should all be Thankful, but the story of Pilgrims and Indians happily sitting down together just isn’t true.

Works Cited


Tech Updates: Cool Gadgets of the Future
Six insanely cool gadgets that would impress all of your friends
By: Damein Hayes

1. Cool 3-Sided Flip Phone

Three-Sided Phone
This photo shows the phone flipped into a triangle that shows an alarm clock on the front.
Photo Credit: Idkulthree

This phone has one side for the screen, one side for an alarm clock, and one side for your apps and widgets.

2. Wireless Translating Headphones
If you like traveling but you don’t know any languages. Then you don’t understand what people are saying well you need these headphones they automatically translate a different language. So that you don’t have to learn that language.

3. A Solar Charger

Solar Charger
This photo shows 4 solar chargers suction cupped on. A window solar charging.
Photo Credit: Xd-design.

These solar chargers are really cool. They suction cup to a window so that you can charge your phone from the sun. You’re really cool cause then you don’t have to worry about using too much electricity because they charge from the sun. You can put them on a window.

4. Food Scanner
This device will tell you automatically what is in your food. Sadly, you do have to have a phone, but I’m pretty sure everyone in middle school has one right, but let’s get back on track.

So, if your allergic to something that is in food then use this and you’ll know if it’s in that food. If you’re on a diet you’ll know if there’s high fructose corn syrup in that dish. You’ll also know the calories and grams of fat in the dish.

5. Incredibly Flexible Phone
Do you always drop your phone and break it? Well here’s something for you it is very flexible and it still works like a regular phone so that if you drop it, it won’t break.

6. Portable Copy and Paste Tool

Copy and Paste
This photo shows someone copy and pasting a photo.
Photo Credit: Yanko design

If you really want a picture but don’t want to print it, use this tool. You just scan a photo and then paste it on a blank piece of paper. It’s that easy except you have to press the button when you see a green light. That means you
already have something stored on there and ready to be copied.

What invention do you wish you had out of these 6?

Works Cited

Class Highlights:

Culinary
Procedure and Recipe provided by Mr. McCollom

By: Ryan Fish

Have you ever wanted to learn how to cook? Well there is a culinary class for elective. He is going to teach some safety and cooking to students here is the best recipe yet from Mr. Mccollom.

Mise en Place
Mise en Place contains variety of foods that are organized and aesthetically pleasing.

Photo Credit: Mosaic Foods

Step 1: Preparing Your Mise en Place
• 6 pieces bacon
• 2 ribs celery
• 1 carrot (can substitute with 3/4 cup corn kernels, if preferred)
• 1 medium onion
• 4 small Yukon Gold potatoes (approx. 1 lb)

Method
To prepare your Mise en Place, first cut the bacon into lardons. Peel and dice the onion, celery and carrots into about 1/4”-inch pieces. For the potatoes, peel and dice into approximately 1/2”-inch cubes. Cover the potatoes with cold water. Set everything aside.

Next, heat a small fry pan over medium heat and add the bacon. Cook it until it begins to crisp up. Once done, drain the bacon onto a paper towel, reserving the excess bacon fat.

Next, heat a small fry pan over medium heat and add the bacon. Cook it until it begins to crisp up. Once done, drain the bacon onto a paper towel, reserving the excess bacon fat.

Step 2: Making the Soup
• sea salt, to taste
• 4 tbsp all-purpose flour
• 2 cups unsalted, clam nectar
• 2 bay leaves
• 2 tbsp reserved bacon fat
• 2 cups homogenized milk
• 1 cup baby clams

Method
To start the soup, heat a suitable-sized pot over medium-low heat. Add the bacon fat, followed by the onions and celery. Add a good pinch of salt and let sweat for about 5 to 10 minutes, until the onions become somewhat translucent.

Next, add the carrots and cook for another minute or two.

Next, singe with the flour. Stir and let cook for a couple of minutes. Temper in the cold clam nectar. Temper in the cold milk and then bring the liquid to a simmer, stirring frequently. Once the liquid comes to a gentle simmer add diced potatoes and bay leaves. Bring back up to a simmer and let cook for approximately 15 minutes or until potatoes are just cooked through.

Next, add the clams and cook for another few minutes just to heat the clams through. Taste for seasoning, adding a bit more salt and/or freshly cracked pepper, if desired.

To serve the soup, you can either add the bacon directly to the pot and then serve or you can garnish each bowl with some of the bacon bits.

*Note: For the clams, you need about one cup. We like to use baby clams; however, you can also use bigger clams and just chop them up a bit. Canned or freshly-cooked clams can be used for this recipe.

Remember to always be safe while cooking in the kitchen. Thanks Mr. McCollom for a great recipe and class!

Current Events:
Allyson Felix Broke Usain Bolt’s Record for Most Gold Medals
A review on Allyson Felix’s World record for the most gold medal’s won at an Olympic Running event.

By: Elyan Bedolla
A side by side comparison of Allyson Felix and Usain Bolt.
Photo Credit: Getty Images

On September 29th, 2019 at the IAAF world athletics championships in Doha, Quatar Olympic runner Allyson Felix Broke Usain Bolt’s World record for the most gold medals won in a single event. Usain Had won 11 medals as of 2013 and Allyson Felix Made 12 Gold medals. The event she ran was the mixed gender 4x400m relay race with an astounding time of 3:09:34. However, don’t be mistaken, Usain bolt is still the fastest runner in the world after the 2009 world championships in Berlin.

The most Amazing part of this all was just months before She had given birth to her Daughter Camryn. Without a doubt, she made history for the women’s running community as a whole.

Earlier, in 2010 Allyson had signed a multi-year apparel sponsorship with Athleta and Nike. They made a policy for taking a leave of absence to have a child, (Camryn) and her contract expired 2017. Allyson had found out about Nike wanting to pay her 70% less for her feat to raise her child instead of continuing to compete. Many female American athletes have spoken up about this and protested with Allyson.

However, this does not overshadow the amazing triumph she pulled off by beating the one and only Usain Bolt. This astounding record will be written in the history books as one of the most inspirational endeavors for women all around the globe.

Most women all around the world have been victims of sexism and are treated worse than men. Women are being paid less and being judged for not being strong and independent because we have been indoctrinated to believe that women are inferior to men. But in reality, we have plenty of strong and independent women on the face of the planet and we should celebrate that.

Works Cited


Holidays:
Thanksgiving
By: Lizette Osmara Alvarez

Cooking the Turkey
Credit: Getty Images

Thanksgiving Day is a day for people in the US to give thanks for what they have. Families and friends get together for a meal, which traditionally includes roast turkey, stuffing, potatoes, vegetables, cranberry sauce, gravy, and pumpkin pie.

In some cities and towns, there are parades during the Thanksgiving weekend. The first Thanksgiving was in 1621, (History.com). Some popular foods for Thanksgiving are turkey meat, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and yams.

Some popular things to do on Thanksgiving are to do a family photoshoot, give thanks, eat, spend time with family, make pie, and play football.

In most areas, these festivities also mark the opening of the Christmas shopping season. The day after Thanksgiving is now known as “Black Friday.”

Recently Black Friday has been going on during Thanksgiving which kind of ruins it for family friends. Shopping is starting early Thursday night. People leave to go shopping for Black Friday instead of spending time with their family. However, Black Friday is a good opportunity for parents to buy Christmas presents.

Works Cited
Holidays:
Black Friday
An article explaining how Black Friday came to be.

By: Elyan Bedolla

Black Friday is more or less Thanksgiving annoying little brother that everyone has a love-hate relationship with. This day is mainly observed by the US and is one of the best holidays to get all of the hottest items on the market with huge savings and discounts. Items such as a new OLED TV, a new pair of Bose headphones or perhaps the latest gaming console 50% off.

The term derived from black symbolizing a calamity or disaster on a Friday almost right after Thanksgiving. However, this holiday has an odd history.

In 1869 during the Gold Rush, Jay Gould and James Frisk wanted to Take advantage of being a part of the Grant Administration (As is Ulysses S. Grant). They caused the market to crash as a result of driving the gold prices up. They did this by getting government gold off the market.

However, Black Friday is notorious for the massacre of people barging into stores to get the latest electronic on sale. Some places are so into Black Friday to the point where (very few) people died. (Britannica). No matter the consequences people still enjoy the massive sales to get Christmas presents early. It is quite ironic.

Current Events:
The Cutest Doggo Ever, Corgis
An overview of the hot dog Corgi and history

By: Denzil Guy

I decided to research the cutest dog ever--Corgis! In my research I learned...

1. His Ancestry Dates Back to the 10th Century or in Other Words Grandpa Corgi What's a Printing Press?
According to the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, it is believed that the Pembroke’s ancestry dates back to at least the 10th century. It is very old.

2. Legend Has it He’s “Enchanted” or in Other Words 1st Dog President for 2020
Welsh legend says the fairies and elves of Wales used the Pembroke Welsh Corgi to pull fairy coaches, work fairy cattle, and serve as the steed for fairy warriors. They say all hail Corgi!

3. He’s a World-Class Herding Dog or in Other Words Farmer Jones the Corgi
Don’t let their size fool you, these dogs have been herding for decades! From the beginning, the Welsh used Pembroke Welsh Corgis as herding dogs, and they're the best of being a farmers and guardians of the farm. Even today, these dogs are still expert herders. Many Pembroke even compete in American Kennel Club Events or AKC.

4. They are Very Different from the Cardigan Welsh or in Other Words Cardigan Welsh: Hi Corgi, Are You Me?
In 1934, the AKC recognized the Pembroke and the Cardigan Welsh as two distinct breeds. What is different about these two dogs? A Corgi is a brother from another mother. The Pembroke is short and Cardigan is long.

Works Cited
5. He’s Your Best Friend and a Great Competitor or in Other Words Corgis are the Best Therapy Dogs.

The Pembroke Welsh Corgi is known as one of the most agreeable of small house dogs and is a loyal, loving pet for families. They also are known for their intelligence and enthusiasm for working.

Many Pembrakes compete in contests and so much more because these dogs can do it all.

6. Corgi Means Dwarf Dog or in Other Words He Protec, He Attac. Most Importantly of all His Size is = to a Tic Tac Corgi are dwarf dogs. That’s a fact.

7. A Pembroke Welsh Corgi Named Rufus Was the Mascot for Amazon.com or in Other Words Amazon’s r Doggo Friendly Amazon’s culture is dog-friendly culture. Because duh, they’re cute.

8. Corgi/Life Span or in Other Words all Joys Have to End at Some Point

Corgis provide you with 12-15 years of fluffy good boy love.

By the end of the season both Varsity and JV had a record of 5 wins and 5 losses. The varsity roster was Logan Koontz, Valentin Acevedo-Quintero, Evsevio Castillo, Tony Chavez, Neddy Lozano, Eddie Rocha, Angel Tan-Colin, and Miguel Perez. Swingers were Christian Rocha, Ethyn Williams, and Nico Valdez. The Varsity team was coached by Remi Mejia. The JV team coached by Cravon was Alexander Alvarez, Dominick Velasco, Carlos Ontiveros, Martin Perez, David Mendez, and Giovanni Ibarra.

A big thanks to the team managers Brianna Miranda and Ceydi Martinez. Don’t forget to support the girls’ basketball team. Their games will begin later this month with a home game on 1/27 @ 4:30 against Applegate Valley.
### Calendars: November, December, and January

**By: Mackenzie Case**

#### November

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**Comics: Po**

By: Mackenzie Case

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**Some people have cool halloween costumes.**

Well...

**Mine's even better.**

**Yay!**

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Comics: Money Maker
By: Denzil Guy

Comics: The First Fail
By: Louis and Maverick Lim

Comics: Broken Shopper
Extreme excitement brought on by buying a Corgi
By: Denzil Guy
Poetry: Welcome
By: Samantha Stephenson

Carols
A knock on the door, Who could it be? You choose ignore, But your not alone. Your mom walks up the door You let out a groan.

They don't stop for more than a second, They just take a breath. Then once again their mouths beckon.

A group of men and women stand, Holding books and candles, In their mitten covered hands.

One of them look your way, All happy and cheery. Do they want you to pay?

They make you bored Until they start singing, That's when they can't be ignored.

You look away angry to seem uninterested. All they want is your money, why else would they have visited.

But then you start to see, They might want to spread joy. You look over at the well lit christmas tree.

Their mouths open as wide as tennis balls. Jingle bells, silent night, Deck the halls!

They just want leave you joy and peace, so You close your eyes and listen Hoping they never cease...

Polls: Favorite Holiday Song
By: Mackenzie Case

Middle School's Favorite Holiday Song

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<td>All I Want for Christmas</td>
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<td>Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer</td>
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<td>Frosty the Snowman</td>
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<td>White Christmas</td>
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Royals Awards: Advisory Excellence
Good work showing leadership, participation, and respect in advisory
By: Lisbette Gomez
Reminders: School Events and Contact
By: Ms. Herick

A Note From Ms. Herick

Thank you for reading our 5th edition of KUA Today. In Journalism we brainstorm what we want to be in our school newspaper, learn how a newspaper is formatted, practice how to interview, read about current events, send emails, gather information, and practice our typing.

It is a fairly independent working environment where you get to decide what and how to write! This edition contains numerous comics, praise for our students who receive Royals Awards, beautiful poetry, and holiday history!

We cannot wait to see how the newspaper will evolve over the rest of this year. Thank you for all your support! If you see any of these students be sure to compliment them on their amazing work!

- Ms. Herick and the Journalism Class

STAFF

Carlos Ontiveros – Sport and Current Events
Damein Hayes – Current Events and Tech Updates
Denzil Guy – Comics and Current Events
Elyan Bedolla – Editor and Holidays
Lisbette Gomez – Reminders and Events
Lizette Osmara Alvarez – Holidays
Louis Lim – Comics and Holidays
Mackenzie Case – Comics, Polls, and Calendars
Ryan Fish – Holidays and Class Highlights
Sam Stephenson – Poetry