

The Warrior

West Broadway Middle School Community News: December Holiday Edition

PURPOSE ↓

The Warrior, founded by Mr Smith's period 2 creative writing class, is a newsletter and contribution to WBMS by this year's 8th grade. The newsletter is meant to help students and staff stay informed about relevant topics to our school and community. With this mission in mind, it may include everything from interviews and shoutouts of hardworking students and staff, to creative pieces taken on by students. Overall, the main purpose for this newsletter is to show gratitude and appreciation for our school, and we hope you enjoy reading this December holiday edition.

Overview:

Leah, Lesly, and Angelina will cover various topics relevant to the month of December.

Aranza and Nayelis will share their articles on Kwanzaa and Hanukkah: Two holidays celebrated in December that our student body might not be familiar with.

Joshua has for us a history of Jesus, and why Jesus' relation to the month of December is so important for many different religions.

Issac will share fun facts and history about today's most famous holiday (mainly Christmas) movies.

Josiah and Helen will segway into our interview segment of the newsletter, highlighting two WBMS staff members and showing our community more about who they are and what they do!! Read along to find out who this month's interviewees are.

Jeremiah will share his findings on events happening in Providence this December. At the time of publishing, some of these events may have passed, but it is still great to be informed and to gain insight into just how much our city has to offer.

Carlos committed to writing an article about this history of candy canes and why they are a December staple. He failed to uphold his commitment. Here at least is the website he found in case you are curious yourself: <https://time.com/5069554/candy-cane-story/>

Jayden & Jazlyn

Jayden and Jazlyn were both supposed to enlighten our student body with PPSD events and activities, however failed in their responsibilities and the goals that they willingly signed up to uphold. The show must go on, and we hope you enjoy and appreciate the hard workers in our class who helped to deliver this valuable information to your hands or screens.

Everything below was written by students, and edited by Mr. Smith



National horse day ✨

a day to remember the economic, historic, and cultural contributions that horses have made. When? 12-13-24

National Horse Day is celebrated each year to honor the special relationship between people and horses. It highlights their importance in our lives for work and companionship and encourages us to appreciate and care for them.

Events like horse shows and community activities take place on this day to teach about horse care and protect wild horse populations. It's an opportunity for everyone to learn about horses and their significance while promoting their well-being.

National Horse Day also brings horse lovers together, allowing them to share stories and experiences. This day is a chance to support horse charities and rescue organizations, helping to ensure that horses get the care they need. By joining local events or volunteering, people can make a positive difference in the lives of horses while increasing their own appreciation for these amazing animals.



FACTS ABOUT HORSES

Horses can't breathe through their mouth. ...
Horses can sleep standing up. ...
Horses have excellent hearing. ...
Horses have a nearly 360-degree field of vision. ...
Horses have lightning fast reflexes. ...
Foals can walk and run within a few hours after birth. ...
Horses are highly intelligent animals.

QUOTES FROM HORSE LOVERS

No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle.

Winston Churchill

A horse doesn't care how much you know until he knows how much you care. Put your hand on your horse and your heart in your hand.

Pat Parelli





Holiday Lights Spectacular ✨

Located at Roger William park zoo from 5:00 to 9:30 1-4-25

The Holiday Lights Spectacular is an event at Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, Rhode Island, running from late November to early January. It features over a million sparkling lights, creating a magical atmosphere throughout the zoo. Visitors can walk through beautifully lit paths, enjoy fun activities, and try seasonal snacks, all while seeing some of the zoo's animals.

The event also includes special nights, like visits from Santa and holiday crafts for kids. Families can take great photos in front of the lights. Besides having fun, the event helps support the zoo's work in protecting wildlife. As guests enjoy the displays, they can learn about animals and conservation, making it a fun and educational outing for everyone.

Overall, the Holiday Lights Spectacular is a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday season with loved ones. Whether you're admiring the lights, enjoying the activities, or simply soaking in the festive spirit, it's an event that brings joy and warmth to all who attend.



FACTS ABOUT THE HOLIDAY LIGHTS SPECTACULAR

1. ****Duration****: Runs from late November to early January.
3. ****Family Activities****: Includes crafts, seasonal treats, and visits from Santa.
4. ****Educational Focus****: Offers information on wildlife conservation .

HOW IT STARTED

The Holiday Lights Spectacular at Roger Williams Park Zoo was developed by the zoo staff in collaboration with local sponsors and community partners. While specific individuals may play key roles in organizing the event each year, it is a collective effort by the zoo's team to create and enhance this beloved holiday tradition. The event has grown over the years, becoming an annual highlight for families in the area.





New years! ✨

A holiday that is traditional to the Us. And happens every year
When? 1-1-25

Rhode Island welcomes New Year's with exciting celebrations, especially in Providence at the First Night events. These family-friendly activities include live music, art shows, fireworks, and a parade of lights. Many bars and restaurants also have special New Year's Eve parties, while some prefer quieter gatherings at home with loved ones.

Newport is another popular destination, known for its beautiful waterfront views and upscale events. As midnight approaches, attendees enjoy the lively atmosphere and a spectacular fireworks display over the harbor.

Overall, Rhode Island has a fun and festive way to ring in the New Year, catering to various tastes and preferences, whether you're looking for lively celebrations or cozy gatherings. It's a great time to reflect on the past year and look forward to new beginnings!



FACTS ABOUT NEW YEARS

The largest New Year's Eve celebration in Rhode Island takes place in Providence, known as First Night. This event features a wide array of artistic performances, live music, and fireworks, making it a family-friendly celebration.

The celebrations culminate in a countdown to midnight, typically highlighted by a fireworks display over the Providence River, which attracts thousands of spectators.

QUOTES ABOUT NEW YEARS

Here's to a bright New Year and a fond farewell to the old

Wishing you a year of happiness and good health as this year comes to a close

It's never too late—never too late to start over, never too late to be happy

A new year to continue to write our own story



Kwanzaa and Hanukkah



December Holidays

By: Nayeli Nieves & Aranza Rivera

P.2 Mr. Smith



Kwanzaa

The celebration of Kwanzaa is meant to honor the ancestors, Affirm the bond between them, and to celebrate African and African American cultures.

Kwanzaa is mostly celebrated in the United states, Caribbean and many other large countries with descendants of africans.

The place where people throw the largest kwanzaa celebration is downtown detroit. The seven days of Kwanzaa represents unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

- Unity (Umoja)
- Self-determination (Kujichagulia)
- Collective work and responsibility (Ujima)
- Cooperative economics (Ujamaa)
- Purpose (Nia)
- Creativity (Kuumba)
- Faith (Imani)

In case you are wondering, Kwanzaa is not a religion, it is a holiday. Kwanzaa is celebrated by people who celebrate different religions or people who do not identify with a religion. Kwanzaa is not a public holiday, meaning not everyone can celebrate it at their will. The holiday is reserved specifically for people with African heritage.

The traditional food of Kwanzaa is Catfish, collards, and macaroni and cheese. Kwanzaa always have their feast on the 6th day of the holiday, called karamu. In addition to this, Kwanza has a signature cocktail associated with it called a “Stinger” which dates back to 1917. It is a digestive cocktail invented by Tom Bullock, who was the first African American cocktail book author. It's made with a two-to-one ratio of brandy to creme de menthe, shaken, and served over ice.

Recipes

- Jerk Chicken.
- Shrimp & Sausage Gumbo
- Southern Collard Greens
- West African-Inspired Chicken & Peanut Stew
- Shrimp Creole
- Southern Baked Mac & Cheese
- Holiday Black-Eyed Peas
- Brown Stewed Chicken



There is a unique symbol for Kwanzaa and it is seven candles (Mishumaa Saba) The candle holder, unity cup, place mat, crops, corn, and gifts.



- ❖ The candle holder (Kinara)
- ❖ Unity cup (Kikombe cha Umoja)
- ❖ Placemat (Mkeka)
- ❖ Crops (Mazao)
- ❖ Corn (Muhindi)
- ❖ Gifts (Zawadi)

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 for 3 reasons, 1) To reaffirm and restore African heritage and culture, 2) To introduce and reinforce the Nguzo saba or the seven principles, 3) To serve as a nationally celebrated communal and non-heroic holiday. Kwanzaa was created by Maulana Ron Karenga. Kwanzaa is a 58 years old place, and is now older than hanukkah.

The queen mother of kwanzaa is now sister Makinya Sibeko-Kouate and she is 90 but sadly she died during February 4th, she was born on July 1st 1926 she was an only child to Turner Smith and Willette Edythe Parker Smith in San Leandro, California.

500,000 - 2,000,000 numbers of Americans celebrate Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa Flag

The Bendera flag are colors of a Black, Red and Green
Black - Stands for their people
Red - Stands for the struggle they go through
Green - Stand for the future that follows their struggles



The Bendera flag is based on the national flag from the Hon.

Hanukkah

What is Hanukkah?

Hanukkah is a Jewish festival that reaffirms the ideals of Judaism and commemorates in particular the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem by the lighting of candles on each day of the festival.

Hanukkah is not a "Sabbath-like" holiday, and there is no obligation to refrain from activities that are forbidden on the Sabbath, as specified in the Shulkhan Arukh. Adherents go to work as usual but may leave early in order to be home to kindle the lights at nightfall.



When did Hanukkah start?

Hanukkah has ancient roots, commemorating the second century B.C.E. reclaiming and rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem following a period of Greek-Syrian occupation and desecration of the holy place, according to ancient Hebrew texts like the Talmud and the books of the Maccabees.

Why is Hanukkah celebrated?

In Hebrew, Hanukkah means "dedication," and the holiday marks the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem in the 2nd century BC, after a small group of Jewish fighters liberated it from occupying foreign forces.

What do people do on Hanukkah?

Hanukkah starts on the 25th day of Kislev, the ninth month of the Hebrew calendar. It is celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting as well as playing dreidel, singing songs and preparing delicious food. It is a fun time for children, as they will receive gifts and Hanukkah money called gelt.

Do people give gifts on Hanukkah?

Some more conservative Jewish communities prefer to avoid giving gifts and, instead, prefer to give money. They see the giving of gelt to be more authentically Jewish, but many Jews also choose to offer traditional Hanukkah gifts that support the holiday. There's no ceremony for giving gifts.

Here are 10 fun facts about Hanukkah!

1. The holiday celebrates a Jewish military victory.
2. Hanukkah lasts for eight nights to commemorate how long the holy light burned.
3. A Hanukkiah is lit each night of the holiday.
4. Menorahs come in all different shapes and sizes.
5. The Menorah is lit every night after sundown.
6. Gifts were not always given for Hanukkah.
7. Hanukkah dishes are fried for a reason.
8. Hanukkah is not the most important Jewish Holiday.
9. Harry Truman was the first president to celebrate Hanukkah in the White House.
10. There is no “wrong” way to spell Hanukkah.

What do people eat on Hanukkah and why do they fry their foods?

Here are some foods that people make on Hanukkah

Recipes:

1. Apple challah-Braided bread loaf
2. cakes-moist desserts
3. Latkes-Fried potato pancakes
4. sufganiyot-Round Jelly Doughnuts
5. Loukoumades-honey-dipped puffs
6. Cheese and dairy dishes-Judith's victory food



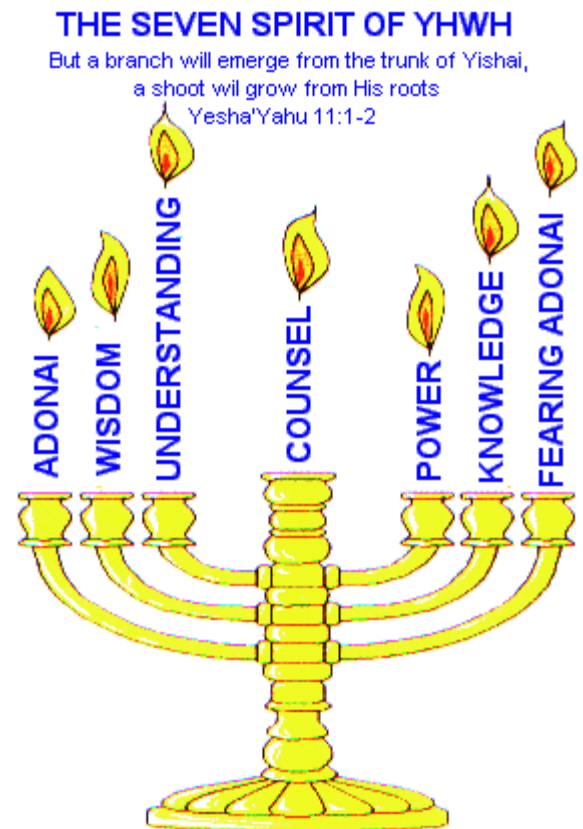
7. Hamantaschen-Triangular filled cookies
8. Softs pretzels-Twisted slatted snacks
9. Beef Brisket-Slow cooked meat

People fry their food on Hanukkah as a symbol for the miracle oil that burned for eight nights straight. By making deep-fried foods, they pay homage to the abundance of oil provided to the Jewish people centuries ago. Traditional Hanukkah food is fried to remind us of the oil in the story of the miracle of Hanukkah.



The Hanukkah Candles Represent:

1. **The hanukkah**, a candelabra that holds nine candles, symbolizes the number of days that the Temple lantern blaze.
2. **The miraculous oil**: The candles we light on Hanukkah represent the oil that burned for eight nights in the temple, allowing the Maccabees time to find more and rededicate the temple².
3. **Spiritual purity and faith**: The light of the Chanukah candles represents the triumph of spiritual purity over corruption and faith over oppression³.
4. **The shamash**: The ninth branch of the hanukkah holds a candle called the shamash, which is used to light the other eight candles



The History of Jesus

And his relation to December 25th

*No matter what your religion is, or if you're religious or not:
Jesus was a real person in history!!!!!!*



How is Jesus and Christmas related?

Christmas is celebrated to remember the birth of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the Son of God. The name 'Christmas' comes from the Mass of Christ (or Jesus). A Mass service (which is sometimes called Communion or Eucharist) is where Christians remember that Jesus died for his followers, and then came back to life.

Why was Jesus' birth important?

Christ has to be born because of the sin of mankind. For the disobedience of one man sin entered the world; so for man to be remitted from his sins, the Savior had to be born.

Genesis 3:1-6, Matthew 1:21. Jesus had to be born because God wanted to reveal his own character to humanity.



Why is the Narrative that Jesus was born on Christmas day?

“The real reason for the selection of Dec. 25 seems to have been that it is exactly nine months after March 25, the traditional date of Jesus' crucifixion. ... As Christians developed the theological idea that Jesus was conceived and crucified on the same date, they set the date of his birth nine months later.”

In the Story of Jesus, What Happened when he was Born?

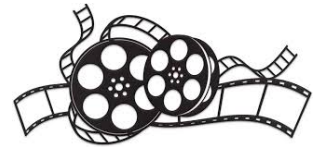
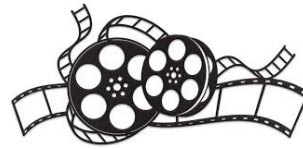
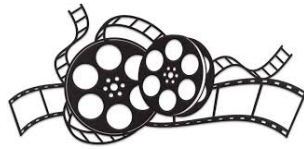
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How is Christmas Eve Related to Jesus?

Christmas Eve is the evening or entire day before Christmas, the festival commemorating the birth of Jesus. Christmas Day is observed around the world, and Christmas Eve is widely observed as a full or partial holiday in anticipation of Christmas Day.

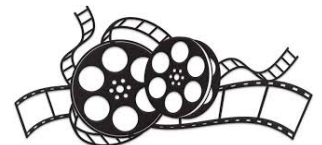




Hi My Name is Issac.

**I Made a SLIDESHOW all
about Holiday-Movie Fun
Facts and History**

**Click the link above to check
it out^^^^^**



Ms. Aleicho Interview

My name is Josiah Torres and I interviewed Ms. Aleicho. Here are the questions I asked her and a summary of her responses.

Josiah: How is your job doing and how are you doing?

She is doing great, and her job is busy but it's going well.

J: For people who don't know, what IS your job?

Ms. Aleicho is the speech language therapist. She helps kids with their communication, vocabulary, and answering questions.



J: Do you like your job?

She loves her job because it's fun and the kids are awesome.

J: How did you get your job?

She applied to Carl Lauro Elementary School and West Broadway Middle School. After both schools called back she decided to work at West Broadway Middle School.

J: What education/ training did it take?

Ms. Aleicho had to get an undergraduate degree in communication sciences and disorders and a masters degree in speech language pathology. She went to Worcester State University.

J: Did you always know this is what you wanted to do?

She wanted to do this since she was a sophomore in high school.

J: What made you want to do this job

She wanted to work with kids but not be a teacher and as a speech therapist she can work in a lot of different places, like schools, hospitals, and clinics.

J: When did you start your job

She started at West Broadway in 2018, 7 years ago.

J: What's your favorite subject when you was in school

English and child development were her favorite subjects in school.

J: Where are you from?

Ms. Aleicho is from Portsmouth, Rhode Island.



J: What highschool did you go to and did you like it?

She went to Portsmouth High School and liked it a lot.

J: Do you ever get frustrated at your job?

Ms. Aleicho sometimes does get frustrated, but mostly with paper work and sometimes when kids don't listen..

J: Did you play any sport when you was in highschool or middle school

Yes, she was a cheerleader for 15 years in middle school, high school, and college.

J: How is your dog Henry

Henry is doing great! She wishes she could bring him to school but he's too crazy!

J: What did you do for Thanksgiving

She went to her cousin's house for Thanksgiving dinner and it was delicious!

J: What do you do for fun when your bored

Ms. Aleicho likes to take Henry on walks and go shopping with her friends when she's bored.

J: What are you doing for Christmas

She is going to go to her grandmother's house to see her cousins for Christmas.



Ms. Plynton Interview

Hi my name is Helen Holmes and I interviewed our school social worker Ms. Plynton. In this interview I included pictures that we took together. Here are the questions I asked her and her cited responses.

Helen: Was becoming a counselor your first choice?

Ms. Plynton: “So actually in my 8th grade year book I got to write about what I wanted to be when I grew older, and I wrote that I wanted to do social work, working with children. I like the ages I work with because I feel I make the most impact.”

H: Do you like your job?

Ms. Plynton: “Yes, I have wanted to be a social worker since middle school. To be here I had to do a lot. I had to get a 4-year bachelor's degree, I had to complete a 2-year masters program. To become a licensed independent clinical social worker it required I take 2 years of additional schooling and a specialized exam. I'm the only person in this building who is a licensed mental health professional.”

“For more than 20 years I worked with kids with autism and did special-ed behavior planning. I mostly like helping kids work through and understand trauma.”

H: What are the cons of your job?

Ms. Plynton: “Being the only mental health professional in the school makes it hard for people to back me up because they don't understand mental health in the clinical ways that I do. I wish I had more time to do groups to meet with more of our students.”

H: How do you handle kids with bad tempers?

Ms. Plynton: “I have a counselor caseload of students with special needs or IEPs; we talk about ways to reduce anger and triggers. Triggers are what make someone angry, and if we can identify what the trigger is we implement coping skills. An example is if a person is walking near us who may trigger us, we go the other way. I think it's good for kids to have an ear that will listen to them and I help if kids need to vent.”

H: Would you change your job?

Ms. Plynton: “No, I love this job. I've been at West Broadway for 4 years. I really like the staff and the students. It's really nice to see children grow up because there's a big difference from 5th to 8th grade.”



H: Is your family happy about what you do?

Ms. Plynton: “Yes, my family is very proud because a masters degree is a lot of work. I had a baby during my masters degree and did not miss any classes.”

H: Does the school treat you right?

Ms. Plynton: “Yes this school treats me right and I love my staff, and all the special education teachers.”

H: Do you like your coworkers?

Ms. Plynton: “Yes the majority of my coworkers are great and phenomenal. Our jobs come with a lot of challenges and I trust through any obstacle we can get through it.”



Welcome to the events section of The Warrior, I'm your host Jeremiah Davis. I'm happy to make this for you all, and to show you some events that happened here in Providence during the month of December. Even though at the time of publishing all of these events will have passed, it is good to pay attention to the kinds of activities as well as certain venues here in Providence who likely will have more programming for all holidays, not just those in December.

There was "The Christmas Show" at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium on December 8th.

There was "The Tighmare Before Christmas" and "A Coggeshall Christmas" on December 14th.

"Twas The Night Before Christmas" at Rhode Island College on December 20th.

"Irish Christmas in America" on December 22nd.

"A Christmas Carol" Providence Performing Arts Center on December 28th.



This concludes our Warrior News for the month of December
We hope you enjoyed it!!!

Jeremiah Davis
Lesley Hernandez Mendoza
Helen Holmes
Leah Montes De Oca
Nayeli Nieves
Aranza Rivera Hernandez
Angelina Serrano Paiz
Joshua Seyon
Issac Velasquez Fuentes
Josiah Torres

