



THE BISHOP BULLETIN



Original Artwork by Lucy Schneider

From the Berlin Bureau...

By Mila Rockedal

In the United States, the countdown for Christmas begins at midnight on November 1, and I was surprised to find the same thing is true here, although German Christmas is less commercialized than the holiday in America. Germany finds many festive ways to celebrate the holidays including Christmas markets, advent calendars, and festive legends. The most well known of the German Christmas traditions are the Christmas markets. Known for their delicious warm food and a traditional look, German Christmas markets are the ideal winter activity. In December, you find markets in every town square in Germany selling food and crafts. The more touristy ones include rides such as ferris wheels and ice skating rinks, but every single market has a variety of foods, both traditional and modern. The most famous food of all is Glühwein. Invented by Count John IV of Katzenelnbogen in 1420, Glühwein is warmed wine combined with spices. Other important foods include gebrannte mandeln (roasted almonds), lebkuchen (gingerbread), and bratwurst. Along with the warm food, each market has a unique display of lights, ranging from simple fairy lights to 20 foot tall light-up snowmen. While most American Christmas events are decorated with a flashy red and white color scheme, German Christmas markets are decorated with mainly brown, represented through rustic huts that often end up resembling gingerbread houses.

Although advent calendars are not specific to Germany, they have religious roots in the country. Advent calendars are calendars that are meant to add a fun twist to the Christmas countdown. Every day, people open a box and receive a small gift, such as a chocolate or a toy. Advent calendars originated in the Protestant church in the 19th century. Members were finding various unique ways to count down until Christmas Eve. One example of this was placing a piece of straw in a nativity scene every day until Christmas. That concept evolved, and in 1851 the first advent calendar was made out of wood. Soon after, other advent calendars were made with candles. Gerhard Lang is acknowledged as the inventor of the modern advent calendar, inspired by his mother, who sewed cookies into a box and let him eat one everyday of December. Later, Hitler banned the printing of illustrated calendars, but after World War II, soldiers brought them back to Germany, where they have been in demand ever since.

Different cultures and countries all over the world have different versions of “Santa,” but the idea is generally the same. Germans have Saint Nikolaus. However, instead of celebrating him only on Christmas Eve and day, Germans also celebrate Saint Nikolaus Tag (Saint Nicolas day). On December 5th, German children polish their shoes, say a short rhyme, and leave their shoes outside their door. In the morning, their shoes are filled with presents like chocolate, candy, and other small things. Additionally, Saint Nikolaus has a half-devil, half-goat sidekick named Krampus. Krampus travels with Saint Nikolaus and punishes naughty children, sometimes even going as far as kidnapping them. In some parts of Germany, such as Bavaria, adults will dress up as Krampus and patrol streets to scare children.

When compared to America, German Christmas is much more rooted in tradition. While America has many modern Christmas traditions, such as telling a mall Santa your Christmas list, most of Germany's traditions began in the 18th and 19th centuries and have stayed popular ever since.

Treisman, Rachel. “Advent calendars, explained: Where they came from and why they’re everywhere now.” 11 December, 2022 <https://www.npr.org/2022/12/11/1141855237/advent-calendar-history-evolution#:~:text=The%20calendars%20have%20their%20religious%20roots%20in%20Germany&text=Advent%20%E2%80%94%20which%20comes%20from%20the,was%20explicitly%20linked%20to%20Christmas>. Accessed December 2022.

Ray, Anwasha. “15 Christmas Traditions Only Germans Will Understand.” Culture Trip. 17 November, 2017, <https://theculturetrip.com/europe/germany/articles/15-christmas-traditions-only-germans-will-underst> Accessed December 2022.

Mock Trial

By Jibreel Reda Frayn



The Mock Trial team next to Judge Thompson behind the judges' bench in the federal courthouse

On December 15, the Nathan Bishop Mock Trial program, hosted by Discovering Justice, concluded with a mock trial of Ross v. Clermont High School. This took place in the federal courthouse, and was attended by approximately 80 people.

In an interview with Mr. Pride, who supervised the mock trial, explained to us how the mock trial program was set up with the help of Discovering Justice. Discovering Justice is “an organization that is trying to get middle schoolers interested in law-related positions, or at the very least aware of the law. In this particular case it was the fourth amendment, although it could have been a lot of other things as well.” He continued, “Discovering Justice reached out to Ms. Jackson, who asked if anyone would want to do a mock trial...We had a video call with Discovering Justice, and I liked what I saw.” Mr. Pride says most things were organized by Discovering Justice and the U.S. Attorney’s Office, including the time and place. “The only thing I had to figure out was how to get us there.”

The case was a civil suit over a Fourth Amendment illegal search and seizure claim. The case was presided over by the Honorable Judge O. Rogerie Thompson, of the First Circuit Court of Appeals. With the help of six attorneys and a couple of other people from the court offices, nine Nathan Bishop students participated in writing opening statements, cross and direct examinations, and closing arguments. The attorneys also played witnesses in the case. Five out of eleven jurors for the trial were Nathan Bishop teachers. Ms. O'Neill, Ms. Marques-Leach, Ms. Nunez, Ms. Jen, and Ms. Amado. The other six were law-involved government officials. The jury ruled in favor of the Plaintiff, saying that Clermont High School’s principal went out of the bounds of his search.

The Recycling Program

By Lindsay Whicker



Nathan Bishop students listening to a presentation about the Resource Recovery Program

The mission of the Resource Recovery is to provide safe, environmentally compliant, clean and affordable solid waste and recycling services for the Rhode Island community. On November 21st the elective class, Environmental Science (Research in Science) went to the Resource Recovery center to discover just how much of an impact they have made to our state's environment just from helping students in the cafeteria recycle their: plastics, paper and food.

In the 2021-22 school year, a new program was piloted in the cafeteria to reduce food waste, to help address food insecurity in RI, to promote proper composting and recycling habits, and to reduce the amount of trash headed for the landfill. The program has been a resounding success, with a new elective for 6th graders starting this year, aimed at educating students about this important program. The Food Waste Reduction program is also slated to begin in several other district schools this year.

This program has been extremely successful, since the program began in April, Nathan Bishop has diverted more than 3,807 lbs. of food waste away from the Central Landfill and recovered more than 435 lbs. of food from the share table.

The field trip highlighted for the students how big of an impact just one school really has and how important they are in the process of piloting this program for our district.

Dominican Holiday Traditions

By Janibel Taveras Disla

Dominicans love Christmas festivities! We have traditions that are celebrated every year, including Christmas Eve dinner. This family dinner is one of the Christmas traditions in the Dominican Republic that is repeated every December 24. It is a gathering where family and friends celebrate Christmas Eve. For this festive holiday we usually eat traditional Dominican dishes such as pasteles en hojas, which is made with plantain dough, stuffed with meat, and wrapped in plantain leaves. In addition we have potato salad, lasagna, baked pork leg, chicken, and moro de guandules (rice with a type of pea called pigeon peas). We also eat sweets and coquitos (coconut-based), and fruits like pears, apples, and grapes. This Dominican celebration is filled with love and tradition.

The New Year is one of the most important traditional holiday celebrations in the Dominican Republic. It is celebrated on December 31 in the company of family and friends to wait for the arrival of the new year. It is a meeting in which wishes for the coming year are shared and expressed. When midnight arrives, it indicates that the new year has arrived, and all the gathered people hug each other with joy, celebrating the farewell to the old year and the arrival of a new one. These are two traditions that we Dominicans celebrate here in the United States.

The Nutcracker

By Kelsey Corrigan

This year, the entirety of Nathan Bishop Middle School attended a performance of the Nutcracker performed by Festival Ballet at The Vets. The trip to the ballet was filled with beautiful dancing, incredible music, and much holiday spirit. In addition to this amazing performance, sixth graders were also given education classes and Q&As previous to the event.

Interview with Anne Hastings

By Eliya Brody



Anne Hastings is a sixth grader at Nathan Bishop. She is a dancer at Festival ballet and was in their performance of The Nutcracker. Below are some questions to get to know this young dancer.

- ELIYA BRODY:** When did you take interest in ballet?
- ANNE HASTINGS:** The first time I saw the nutcracker.
- EB:** How old were you when you started dancing?
- AH:** I was four years old when I started dancing.
- EB:** Tell us a little bit about the process of rehearsing for a big performance like The Nutcracker.
- AH:** So, first there are the auditions, then about a week later you start rehearsing. You rehearse a lot and then after two weeks get costumes and then you do the dress rehearsal.
- EB:** Do you plan to pursue dancing as a career?
- AH:** Yes, I'm hoping to become a professional dancer.
- EB:** Who are some people that inspire you?
- AH:** Misty Copeland inspires me because her first ever performance she was in pain, but she just continued dancing without anyone knowing.
- EB:** What are your favorite and least favorite things about ballet and why?
- AH:** My favorite thing about ballet is the costumes and finally going on stage and seeing all the people that showed up to see you perform. My least favorite part is the preparation for a performance.

Looking Back on the Pats: Week 10-14

By Jibreel Reda Frayn

The Patriots are currently 7-7 and out of the playoff picture. They are in the 8th seed, and are 3rd in the AFC east behind the Bills (11-3) and Dolphins (8-6). The Jets are last in the division at 7-7. The wild card teams are the Ravens (9-5), the Chargers (8-6), and the Dolphins.

In week 10, the Patriots came off the bye to play against the Jets for the second time this season. In a game highlighting defensive play, the offense failed to move the ball, scoring only 3 points in 59 minutes of the game. Luckily, the Jets’ offense played terribly as well, scoring 3 points. In a boring game that seemed destined to drag on through overtime, the Jets punted with 26 seconds left. Rookie Marcus Jones was back to receive the kick, and he did not signal fair catch, allowing him to attempt a return. The clock ticked down as Marcus Jones weaved his way through the Jet’s special teams, on his way to return the punt for a touchdown with 5 seconds left. His late game heroics put the Patriots back in the playoff picture, lifting the Patriots over the Jets. Even though the magical ending put a win on the record, the offensive play was still very concerning. The defense also did not force a turnover, however they only allowed three points.

Week 11 featured the Patriots in a prime time Thanksgiving showdown against the Vikings. There were multiple controversial moments in this 26-33 loss, including a touchdown to Hunter Henry that was ruled incomplete, and a missed holding call on a Vikings kickoff return for touchdown. Those calls, along with a few crucial Patriots mistakes like a running into the punter call on fourth down, ruined the Patriots excellent offensive play. The offense stayed resilient in perhaps Mac Jones’s best performance of the season, but it was not enough to take down the star studded Vikings team. The defense could not cover Justin Jefferson, and their single forced turnover could not outweigh the Vikings scoring.

Week 12 was no better, as the Patriots were easily defeated by the conference leading Buffalo Bills on another Thursday night matchup. The Patriots did not play well, with their only touchdown coming from a screen pass to cornerback Marcus Jones. Marcus had two catches for 51 yards and a touchdown, while also starting on defense. The defense did not do well, allowing 24 points and failing to stop Bills’ superstars Stefon Diggs and Josh Allen.

On Monday night against the Cardinals in week 13, the Patriots needed to win to realistically stay in the playoff conversation. They delivered with their dominating 27-13 victory. Rookie Marcus Jones was able to keep Cardinals star Deandre Hopkins in check, giving up less than 80 yards and not allowing a touchdown, while securing his first career interception. The Patriots offense came from two rookie running backs, Kevin Harris and Pierre Strong, who both rushed for touchdowns. Mac Jones also played well, making many pre-snap reads to beat the blitz and read coverages. The defense played well, although the cardinals were forced to play backup quarterback Colt Mccoy after Kyler Murray came out of the game on just the third play from scrimmage with what would later be diagnosed as a season-ending ACL injury. Josh Uche added to his pro-bowl case with three more sacks, bringing his total on the season to double digits.

In another must win game*, the Patriots faced the Raiders in week 14. After going down 17-3 at halftime due to a special teams miscommunication which led to a blocked punt, the Patriots came back with 21 unanswered points including a Kyle Dugger pick six. They led by seven, with just over two minutes to go in the half, and the Raiders had no time outs. Unfortunately, the defense did not stand firm and the Raiders drove down the field easily, getting out of bounds on multiple receptions. With around 30 seconds left, Derek Carr found Keelan Cole in the back of the endzone, for a catch that was initially ruled a touchdown on the field. After going to review, it seemed clear that Cole had stepped out of bounds while trying to bring his right toe in bounds. Even the rules specialist on the television broadcast thought that the play would be ruled incomplete. However, after a long review, the officials determined that the ruling on the field would stand as a completed pass and a touchdown. The Raiders tied up the game with the extra point, leaving only around 30 seconds left in the game. The Patriots ran a few plays, but ended up in their own territory with no timeouts and very few seconds left. Out of range for a hail mary, offensive coordinator Matt Patricia called for a draw play to Rhamondre Stevenson. Stevenson ran it about 20 yards downfield before getting stuck between a few tacklers. He decided to lateral the ball back to wide receiver Jakobi Meyers, who then attempted to throw the ball all the way back to quarterback Mac Jones. The ball was intercepted in the air by former Patriot Chandler Jones, who stiff-armed Mac Jones and ran the ball all the way back for a touchdown with no time remaining. A disappointing loss, the game dealt a massive blow to the Patriots playoff hopes.

The Patriots will face the Bengals (10-3), Dolphins, and Bills in the final weeks of the regular season. The Patriots will most likely need to win out, and receive a little bit of help from other teams to make the playoffs. Many fans are calling for the firing of offensive coordinator/playcaller Matt Patricia, who used to be the defensive coordinator for the Patriots, winning two super bowls before he left to become a head coach elsewhere. He was re-hired after the Patriots lost their longstanding and very successful offensive coordinator Josh Mcdaniels during the offseason. Patricia became the “senior football adviser/offensive line coach” of the Patriots and during the season has been calling plays for the offense.

This loss has now derailed the Patriot’s playoff hopes, as the Patriots probably will not make the playoffs. The defense desperately needs to stop the offenses they play in the coming weeks, which is no easy task considering the schedule. Matthew Judon and Josh Uche need to be giving consistent pressure to force mistakes from the opposing quarterbacks. Marcus Jones must have safety help to hold down Chase, Hill, and Diggs if the coaching staff does decide that he is the number one cornerback. The offense must all be on the same page, and have a variety of plays to call in different situations. The Patriots will need a lot of luck in the last few games if they want to make the postseason, but their situation is not looking good right now.

“New England Patriots.” ESPN. <https://www.espn.com/nfl/team/name/ne/new-england-patriots> Accessed December 2022

*The game was not mathematically a “must win.” The term is used loosely based on the remaining schedule for the Patriots

A Final to be Remembered

By Theodore Anderson



Image courtesy of Sporting News

The final of the 2022 World Cup ended in spectacular fashion, with an exciting 3-3 game that went to penalty kicks. The game kicked off and immediately Argentina started pressuring France. This pressure led to an early misplay from France, giving Argentina a penalty kick in the 23rd minute. In the 36th minute, Julián Álvarez secured another goal for Argentina, making the comeback for France seem even more daunting. The score stayed this way for the rest of the first half as Argentina kept up the pressure every chance they had. As they entered the last ten minutes of the match, France started to lose hope, but in the 80th minute, a shocking foul in Argentina’s box led to a France penalty. Even with the pressure, Kylian Mbappé managed to blast the ball into the bottom left corner of the net. The score was now 2-1. The comeback started to feel possible. France turned on the pressure. They had ten minutes left, and a one goal deficit. With this newfound energy, Mbappé managed to score again in the 81st minute with a beautiful volley from the top of the box. What was a 2-0 game two minutes ago was now a tie game and would go into extra time.

The thirty minutes of extra time started with multiple chances from Argentina and within the first ten minutes, Lionel Messi scored the go ahead goal. After all their hard work, France was behind once again. The game slowed down, with few chances from either side. It was looking good for Argentina until, in the 116th minute, Kylian Mbappé took a shot from the top of the box that was blocked by the hand of Gonzalo Montiel, granting France their second penalty of the match and a chance to tie the game once again. It was Mbappé’s time to shoot. He went to the same place he had previously been and blasted another perfect shot into the back of the net. The game was tied once again. The second half of extra time ended 3-3 and it went on to a penalty shoot out. `

This was it. The final round. Either win here, or go home. Both teams started strong with Messi and Mbappé both making solid shots. Argentina scored again to go up 2-1 but France missed giving Argentina the advantage. Now down 2-1, the young midfielder Aurélien Tchoumeni was to shoot, but his lack of experience at only 19 years of age caused him to hit the ball wide. Argentina converted on their next shot, and now France could not miss. Randal Kolo Muani managed to score for France, making the score 3-2, but if Argentina scored one more they would become the World champions. Gonzalo Montiel stepped to the ball. This was it. If he scored, Argentina would be the champions of this long and grueling match. He stepped, shot, and hit it into the back of the net. Argentina was the champion, and Messi would go home with the final piece to his trophy collection: the World Cup trophy.

Book Review: Midsummer Mayhem

By Chloe Rourke

Rajani Larrocca’s *Midsummer’s Mayhem* is a fantasy that follows 11 year-old Mira (Mimi) Mackson, a girl who loves to bake. Mimi is the youngest in her big family after her three older siblings. Each sibling has a special talent: dancing, soccer, and acting, and of course baking. Their mom is a successful software consultant and her dad a renowned food writer and critic who helps Mimi try out new recipes. Mimi loves creating new foods for her family and coming up with unusual recipes; however, she often feels left out or invisible next to her older siblings.

When a new bakery opens up in town, “The While Away Bakery and Cafe,” it is announced they are holding a baking contest for children. Mimi jumps at the chance to participate, show off her skills, and be a little less invisible. Each baking level has a different theme, like leaves, or flowers. While gathering ingredients for the competition, Mimi finds herself in the forest behind her house. There she meets a boy, Vik, who plays songs and leads her to a new glade of the forest where she finds all her ingredients.. Vik and Mimi soon become best friends, and with his help she starts to make new pastries and cookies for her family and the contest. Things get complicated, however, when Mimi’s father falls under an enchantment that causes him to not only lose his refined sense of taste, but also to eat everything in sight. With only her baking skills, Mimi must figure out a way to fix her dad and win the tournament so she can finally feel seen.

The History of Homework

By Tara Shriram Fisler

Today, students all over the world have homework on a daily basis, but this was not always the case. For many of us students, the thought of a homework-free world sounds delightful - so how and why did homework ever come to be?

If one googles the query, “Who invented homework?” the first thing that catches your eye is the name Roberto Nevelis, but if you actually choose to read the article from which this name has been pulled, you will find that it is quite dubious as to whether this person ever actually existed. Legend has it that Mr. Nevelis was a teacher in Venice, Italy. He is said to have invented homework in either 1095 or 1905, according to varying sources, as a punishment for students who misbehaved, while the well-behaved students were spared.

While you are probably thinking to yourself right now, “Hah! I knew it was simply a punishment method!” the story isn’t quite that simple. As mentioned before, there is little evidence of Mr. Nevelis’ existence, and there are other important figures who contributed to homework’s creation. One such figure is Pliny the Younger, a teacher in Ancient Rome. As a teacher of speaking, he told his students to practice giving speeches at home in a less stressful environment than class to help them gain skills on their own. However, this is a vast difference to what homework is today. Of course, the internet didn’t exist back then, so sites such as Google Classroom were not an available resource, but how did the practice of writing essays, or doing worksheets at home arise? For that answer, we must look to Horace Mann.

Mr. Mann created a form of homework similar to what we know today in order to show a sense of control that the government had over citizens. At this time, attending school was mandatory, and completing homework was mandatory to completing school. This was meant to teach students that they had no power or control over their lives. Mr. Mann spread the practice around the world, and it became recognized as a worldwide practice to improve student’s learning.

People’s opinions on how beneficial homework really is have evolved quite a bit over time. In fact, there are some countries, such as Finland, who have homework-free (yet successful) educational systems to date. When Mr. Mann first introduced homework to the United States, it was not received well. California created a ban on homework for students under the age of 15. Well-known magazines and newspapers wrote articles stating that homework is bad for student’s health. In 1930, homework was legally declared a form of child labor.

However, over time, the public opinion began to shift. The U.S. wanted to produce academically stronger students and saw homework as the way to achieve their goal. Homework bans were lifted and slowly, and homework evolved into a common practice.

In conclusion, homework, its purpose, and the debate surrounding it, have all changed vastly over time. Researchers are constantly doing studies to better understand homework’s impact on students’ performances in school, as well as its impact on mental health. Today, homework is a major part of our educational system, but who can say for sure what tomorrow will bring?

Lynch, Matthew. “Who Invented Homework?” The Edvocate, 23 July, 2022, <https://www.theedadvocate.org/who-invented-homework/> Accessed December 2022.

“The History of Homework: Why Was It Invented and Who Was Behind It?” Through Education. 14 February, 2020, <https://www.througheducation.com/the-history-of-homework/> Accessed December 2022.

The Arrest of Rosa Parks

By Jibreel Reda Frayn

On December 1st, 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on the bus. This was against the law at the time, due to segregation. Her brave action led to countless protests, boycotts, and other acts of civil disobedience until segregated seating was ruled unconstitutional.

On that historic day, Rosa Parks did what she always did, she rode the bus home. However, that day she had a plan. She had been talking to other Civil Rights leaders in an attempt to organize “a spark” for the civil rights movement, and on that day Parks had her opportunity.

A common practice of Jim Crow law was segregated seating. Black people were forced to sit in the back of the bus, and we were not allowed in the front. Furthermore, if all of the white seats were taken up, a black person would have to give up their seat for a white person. Furthermore, the line that separated the black seating from the white seating could be moved back at any time the conductor thought was necessary to provide more white seats.

While Rosa Parks was on her bus home, the white seats began to fill up. Once the driver noticed some white passengers having to stand, he made his way to the segregation line, and moved it back one row. He told four people to leave their seats and move farther toward the back of the bus. Three complied, but Rosa did not. When Parks continued to refuse to give up her seat, two police officers arrived and took her into custody.

Rosa Parks was not the first person arrested for refusing to give up their seat on a bus, but the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) believed that her case had a good shot at winning over the Supreme Court. After her arrest, Parks helped to organize the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which was a boycott of segregated buses that lasted an entire year. The boycott was one of the most successful in history, becoming extremely widespread and gaining an overwhelming majority of participants. Black people made up around 70% of the daily bus riders, so the bus companies were losing most of their business. Eventually, many cases and suits over segregated seating reached the Supreme Court, and on November 13, 1956, the Supreme Court ruled that segregated seating was unconstitutional. The boycott ended on December 20, the day that the court order reached Montgomery. The start of the bus boycott is sometimes referred to as the start of the civil rights movement, and was one of the first victorious fights against racial inequality in the United States. It also brought a young Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. into the spotlight as the head of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) and a leader in civil rights. Rosa Parks was dubbed the “Mother of the Civil Rights Movement”, and remained involved in the fight for equal rights throughout her life.

History.com Editors. “Rosa Parks.” History, 19 January, 2022, <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/rosa-parks> Accessed December 2022

“The Other Rosa Parks: Now 73, Claudette Colvin Was the First to Refuse Giving Up Seat On Montgomery Bus.” Democracy Now! 29 March, 2013, <https://www.democracynow.org/2013/3/29/theotherrosaparksnow73> Accessed December 2022.

“An Act of Courage, The Arrest of Rosa Parks.” National Archives, <https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/rosa-parks> Accessed December 2022

The American Chestnut Tree- *Castanea dentata*

By Khalil Garcia-Llorens



An image of lumberjacks standing in an old growth grove of American chestnut. Courtesy of the American Chestnut Foundation.

The American chestnut tree, *Castanea dentata*– the same one from the famous Christmas song “Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire”– was a common, large, fast-growing and extremely important tree that once claimed dominance over many North American ecosystems. *Castanea dentata* was widespread, from Louisiana and Georgia to Maine and parts of Vermont. The American chestnut was so large and dominant that it earned the flattering nickname “the Redwood of the East.” The largest trees could reach 100 feet tall and 10 feet wide. The namesake of the American chestnut, the chestnut itself, was heavily produced, with the nuts feeding almost every herbivorous animal that the chestnut tree lived in proximity to, including humans. Our region, southern New England, was one of the strongholds of the American chestnut’s range; estimates put its former population in our region at an impressive 25-40% of all trees. Unfortunately, as has been the case with many crucial native plants, a foreign blight made it to the U.S., specifically through Japanese chestnut tree, or *Castanea crenata*, imports. From the turn of the 19th century, in the span of 40 years, the American chestnut tree had been functionally removed from the ecosystems it once dominated. Functionally is the correct term, in this instance, as small stunted trees that are unable to produce seeds still live all throughout the American chestnut's former range. Luckily, there is still relative hope for this species. A few semi-blight resistant strains of *Castanea dentata* survived the height of the American chestnut blight. By reproducing this strain and crossing it with blight resistant chestnut species and surviving non-blight resistant strains, the American chestnut tree can be brought back with almost total chestnut blight resistance. Through this crossbreeding method, as well as through other treatment methods for trees already infected with the blight, the American Chestnut Foundation (ACF) has been planting and maintaining orchards of the American chestnut all throughout its former range, including an orchard right here in Rhode Island. Although the ACF admits that it could possibly take hundreds of years to breed the American chestnut into blight resistance, the work for humanity’s future generations is being put in to return this beautiful, undeniably crucial “Redwood of the East” to its former glory. While it doesn’t seem that anyone will be roasting American chestnuts on an open fire any time soon, in the holiday spirit, let us take the time to appreciate the wonders this amazing tree once did (and the ones it may do in the future for the ecosystems we call home).

“The History of the American Chestnut.” The American Chestnut Foundation.
<https://acf.org/the-american-chestnut/history-american-chestnut/>
Accessed December 2022

Homemade Donut Recipe

By Chloe Rourke

Ingredients -

- 125ml room temperature milk
- 1 1/2 cups room temperature water
- 2 tbsp caster sugar
- 2 tsp active dry yeast
- 335g all purpose flour
- 50g melted butter
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- Vegetable oil (for deep frying)

For topping-

- Powdered Sugar
- Jam (any jam is fine, but I would recommend strawberry)

Directions -

1. In a large bowl add the lukewarm water, milk, yeast, and 1 tbsp of sugar, lightly stir together and set aside for ten minutes until bubbles appear on the surface.
2. Add in the all purpose flour, melted butter, flour, eggs and 1 tablespoon sugar to the yeast mixture. You can use a mixer with hook attachment or use a butter knife to mix until a sticky dough forms.
3. Then turn out onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth. Place the dough in a lightly oiled bowl, cover with a clean, damp cloth and set aside in a warm place for 45 minutes or until doubled in size.
4. Lightly flour your countertop and knead the dough for about 5 minutes. Roll the dough out into 1 cm thickness and using your cookie cutter with 8 cm round diameter, cut out round. Using a small knife, make 6 deep shallow cuts from the edge to the center of the rounds or sharp scissor to do the cutting job.
5. Take your thumb and make a divot on the center of your donuts for the jam. Place the shaped doughnuts on a non-stick baking pan till you finish cutting the rest of the dough. Rest the doughnuts for another 20 minutes.
6. Place the oil and a sugar thermometer in a large, deep saucepan over medium heat until temperature reaches 356°F (180°C). Fry the doughnuts, in batches, for 1–2 minutes each side or until golden. Drain on absorbent paper.
7. Dust with powdered sugar, put your jam in the middle, and serve.



Original Artwork by Linus Greeve

Junior Achievement Inspire Job Fair

By Khalil Garcia Llorens



A picture of the JA Inspire Job Fair taken by Kelsey Corrigan

On December 15th, the entire 8th grade class traveled to the Amica Mutual Pavilion for the JA Inspire event, a mock job-fair of sorts. In the week leading up to the field trip, 8th graders completed a series of surveys informing students on possible career paths that best suit their interests, and what careers to look out for in the JA Inspire Job Fair. Students entered the convention room and were greeted by an expanse of different booths, each educating students on different job opportunities and career paths. The fair was filled with students from all over the state, giving a lively feeling similar to that of a real job-fair. Some booths that were popular among students were the fire-fighter booth, which featured heavy-duty equipment, a firetruck and an ambulance; the police booth, which featured a VR training experience, a SWAT van, and multiple police cars; and the Johnson and Wales University booth, which featured a delicious pesto-cavatelli being made by college students and a ‘Guess-the-Flavor’ game. The JA Inspire event proved to be an amazing opportunity for students to discover the possibilities of careers suited to their interests.

Nathan Bishop Building and Renovations

By Simon Kislak Brown



Image Courtesy the Public’s Radio

Nathan Bishop had a bad reputation. The students were failing, attendance was slipping, and most of all, the building was falling apart. For two years, construction workers gutted the aged and ruined Nathan Bishop interior. Many people wanted to destroy the school and rebuild, but after much debate, the city government invested 35 million dollars for intense renovations. All the staff and students transferred, and after the 2006 and 2007 school years, Nathan Bishop reopened, becoming a model building for future middle school design.

During the two years of renovations the school was shut down, the former staff of Nathan Bishop were dispersed throughout the Providence Public School District. Staff were promised their jobs back, and a few did return. However, over time, the few remaining have left, leaving Ms. Sharon O’Neill as the only teacher left from before the renovations. The staff was mostly replaced.

Nathan Bishop was built in 1929 in the center of the East Side in a country-like setting. It was built in the Georgian Revival style. This architectural style was prominent in the 1920s and imitated the looks of colonial structures. The issues with the building were similar to that of many large facilities-- there were problems with insulation, air conditioning, roofing, and flooring. The only significant change to the exterior was the widening of the front steps and a ramp. Most of the interior was redone, with new ventilation, new ceilings and floors, new lockers, and a brand new look.

The Nathan Bishop rebuilding wasn’t just beautification and maintenance, it was also the first environmentally friendly public school renovation in Providence, being an example for other schools that wanted to become green. In the renovations, 85% of the structure and shell was maintained as well as the foyer and the auditorium remaining. Large windows were installed to minimize the amount of energy used for lighting and rainwater is collected from the roof and is reused throughout the building and in the bathrooms. The Nathan Bishop building also serves the community, with tennis courts being open for public use and voting taking place within the school.

Nathan Bishop has become a beautiful and efficient hub for learning, and is a model for other middle schools to follow.

