



Beaver News

EXCLUSIVE MONTHLY NEWS

DIGITAL COPY ON WWW.MSNIKKI.NET

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING



BY HARRY WILSON



Did you know that one pint of blood can save three lives? I learned that recently when the Red Cross visited our school. They talked to the fourth and fifth graders about different types of blood and the importance of blood donation.

One type of blood is called o-negative or universal blood because it can be donated to anyone. Only 7 percent of the world has o-negative blood. People who suffer from sickle cell anemia get a lot of blood transfusions. Sickle cell disease is a blood disorder that's inherited which means it's passed down from parents to their children.

But people with sickle cell disease are not the only ones who need blood. In the United States someone is in need of blood every two seconds. Blood cannot be manufactured so people who need blood rely on generous donors. Although almost 40% of the population is eligible to donate, less than 10% actually do each year.

The Centerville Student Council wants to help people in need of blood. We are organizing a blood drive on February 1st from 2-7pm in the cafeteria. We need your help to spread the word. Please tell friends and family 16 years or older about the blood drive. Snacks and childcare will be provided to all blood donors. Hope to see you there. Every drop makes a difference.



We hope your holiday preparations are going well and that you are weathering the busyness of the season with calm and grace. May you all be gathering strength to have your children at home for the long vacation ahead.

In all seriousness, we would like to wish you all a holiday season filled with joy and peace. We appreciate the gifts that your children bring to our school each day in their desire to learn, their caring and kindness towards others, and the fun that fills our building. There is a special feel in our building, and it is something that visitors to our school always recognize.

We are certainly having a spirited finish to 2017. This past Monday we had a "Celebration of Learning" at our community meeting. Our Student Council presented information about the blood drive we will be hosting in February, students shared presentations of classroom math projects and other topics that they are interested in, and our meeting concluded in Centerville fashion as the entire 5th Grade involved the school in a holiday themed song, "The 12 Days of Centerville." Yesterday, our 4th and 5th graders were engaged in a special presentation that challenged them to think about what it means to have a disability, and learn about the work of an organization called Kupenda whose mission it is to support people with disabilities in Africa. One final gift for the year is this edition of the Beaver News. Happy Holidays! Happy New Year! Bring it on 2018! Take care . . .

Principal
Ms. Julie Smith



BY KATEY LAVASCO



When you walk in our school building the first person to greet you with a beautiful smile is Mrs Goodwin. Mrs Goodwin is our school secretary. She is one of the busiest people in our school. Mrs Goodwin makes sure that all the teachers and students have everything they need to have a good day at school. Although Mrs Goodwin is very busy she always makes time to talk to students, teachers and parents.

I interviewed Mrs Goodwin for the Beaver News and learned some interesting things about her that I would like to share. Before Mrs Goodwin became the school secretary she was a lunch lady at Centerville Elementary for seven years. She has two sons, one dog and two chickens. Her favorite book is Little House on the Prairie. Mrs Goodwin's favorite color is red and her favorite subject when she was a child was history. Technology is not her favorite. Some of the things that she enjoys at this school is Taste Test Tuesday and the fifth grade play. But the thing that she enjoys the most is getting to see all of you everyday.



TIS THE SEASON FOR MUSIC

BY OLIVIA MELEI



What would the holidays be without music? Not fun at all if you ask me. On Monday December 11th our elementary school band performed in the Winter Concert at the Beverly High School Auditorium. I did not attend the concert. However, I did get a chance to go to one of the band rehearsals. When I entered the music room our fourth grade musicians Reese Berman, Addison Thompson, Sara and Molly Spiridigliozzi were hard at work practicing their music pieces with music instructor Ms Carr. I quietly sat down and listened in for a few minutes. They sounded good.

The first thing that caught my eye when I entered the music room was all the cool musical instruments. Instruments in the room included flute, clarinet, trumpet, french horn, trombone, percussion, xylophone and snare drums. If you are interested in playing any of these instruments or want to be in the school band next year you should stop by the music room and talk to Ms Carr. She makes all our musicians sound good. Thank you for inviting me to listen in. It was music to my ears.



THE SCOOP ON MISS BAKER

BY LUCY SHEPHERD



1. **Do you have any pets if so what is his or her name?** I have a dog named Buddy and three cats named Yuki, Shamie and Sid.
2. **What is your favorite book?** Chasing Red Bird
3. **Favorite movie?** The Sound of Music
4. **What are your hopes and dreams?** My hope is to continue working at Centerville and I dream to become a chef and travel to Greece.
5. **What is your favorite color?** Black
6. **What is number one on your christmas list?** Makeup
7. **What was your favorite subject when you were a kid?** Reading
8. **What is your favorite subject to teach?** Reading



9. **What is your favorite animal?** Lion
10. **What is your favorite thing to do?** I love to dance
11. **What is your favorite word?** Cinnamon

CODING FUN

BY: CALLIE REED



& EVE SEXTON



Centerville students were excited to join millions of people from over 180 countries to participate in the Hour of Code (HOC) Challenge. Before the HOC Ms. Nikki taught us about algorithms. Algorithms are directions that a computer follows to complete a task. We had fun writing the algorithm for eating a bowl of cereal.

Each day during the HOC we get to use problem-solving, strategy, algorithms and partner pairing to program different games such as Moana, Minecraft, Star Wars Galaxy and Angry Birds. This year there were some new games like Pirate Plunder and Alice in Wonderland. We used two different types of coding, blocky code and Java Script to program the games.

Coding at Centerville is so much fun. We even get to dress up in costumes. On Monday we got to show off our coding powers so we dressed up in our superheros costumes. On Tuesday we got to wear our Star Wars, Minecraft, and Angry Birds costumes. On Wednesday Argg!!! We were Pirates! And on Thursday the queen of hearts took over because we got to dress up in our Alice in Wonderland costumes.

Centerville school students have always had a great time learning to code and dressing up too! This is a great way for our generation to get better at Computer Science and to get ready for what is coming our way with computers and coding!



KWANZAA

BY CHARMAINE USUANLELE



During December, many holidays are celebrated other than Christmas. For example Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa is a week long holiday celebrated from December 26th to January 1st. It is not a religious holiday. It started in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga to celebrate and honor African culture and to also inspire African-Americans.

Kwanzaa is a word that means fruit of the harvest. Kwanzaa celebrations often include African dances, drums, storytelling and poetry. No celebration is complete without good food. Meals at Kwanzaa include African creole, Cajun catfish, jerk chicken or a groundnut stew, which is a tasty dish from West Africa.

The colors of Kwanzaa are black, red and green. Black represents the color of the people, green represents the fertile land of Africa and red represents blood shed in the struggle for freedom.

Happy Kwanzaa to all who celebrate, and Happy Holidays to everyone.



HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

BY EJ BEATTI



At Christmas time most of you may have a family tradition that you enjoy and look forward to doing every year. My family Christmas tradition is going to Jordan's Furniture in Avon. We get to ride on the Polar Express all the way to the North Pole (not the real North Pole) and look at the doll exhibit. There are many games and my favorite is the reindeer games where you can win a stuffed animal. They even have a laser light show and Christmas music you can sing and clap along with. What are your family holiday traditions?

If you don't have one, I have a few suggestions.

1. Make hot chocolate and cookies and drive around with your family to look at Christmas lights on Christmas Eve.
2. Bake some cookies and pop some popcorn.
3. Watch Christmas movies. My dad's favorite Christmas movie is A Christmas Story.
4. Go ice skating. I am a pretty good skater.
5. Take a picture each year in front of the tree in the same poses. Keep an ongoing collection for a photo series that shows your family growing up.

I hope this gives you some family tradition ideas to make those memories last a lifetime. Happy Holidays friends.



HANUKKA

BY ELIANA BROWN



Hanukka also known as Chanukah is the Jewish Festival of Lights honors the struggle of ancient Jews to restore the Temple of Jerusalem. It is an eight-day holiday and usually falls in the month of December near Christmas or Kwanzaa.

The first night usually includes a big family dinner with foods such as potato latkes, beef brisket and jelly doughnuts. After dinner, the family gathers to light the menorah candles. Each night a new candle is lit. This goes on for eight days. Blessings and songs are part of the ceremony. Children then get to open gifts from family and friends. They play games with toys such as the traditional dreidel and chocolate coins, called gelt.



Hanukkah is a special time of year for my family. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and bright holiday season.

SANTA CLAUSE IS COMING TO TOWN

BY CHARLIE BERRY



When you think about Christmas, you think about Christmas trees, presents, candy canes and off course Santa Claus. I think most of you would agree that the best part of Christmas is Santa. I know I am not the only one because when I go to the mall there is a long line of children waiting to take a picture with Santa.

In the United States we know Santa as a cheery, white-bearded old man in a red suit who lives in the North Pole. But in other parts of the world Santa may look different and is known by another name. For example in England he is called Father Christmas. The traditional Father Christmas wears a hooded green cloak. In Russia he is known as Father Frost and he dresses up like a wizard. In Sweden he is known as Tomte and he looks like a garden gnome. In the Netherlands he is known as Sinterklaas. He wears a tall red Bishop's hat and rides a white horse. In Austria Santa is a lady called Christkind. She wears a crown and has long, curly, blond hair.



Although Santa may look different and maybe called by another name, one thing remains the same. Santa has two lists of girls and boys. A nice list and a naughty list of names. We all know that Santa delivers presents to everyone on the nice list. I hope that your name made the nice list.

2017 MEMORIES

BY OLIVIA FALETRA



& LAYLA BOUFARES



Christmas is coming, and New Years Eve is right around the corner!!!!!! WAIT... slow down. Before we charge into 2018 let's think about some of the fun memories we shared this year.

The Halloween Parade is one to put in the yearbook. We all loved seeing the creative costumes all the students and staff put together. Everybody participated in the parade which is so fun. We love that everyone's costume has unique styles. We think Mr Melanson had the best costume. Every year his costume gets more interesting and creative.

One event that was new to Centerville was "What's your Superpower?" Scavenger Hunt. We got to share our strengths and challenges in a fun way. Everyone got to see Mr Wassle's "twin brother" Superman. (He claims Superman is his brother.) It was like Field Day with the different stations and time limit. The new teacher's had some trouble because they didn't know their way around the school especially on the hiking trail. Ms. Mourikas and her class actually got lost in the woods while trying to get to their destination.

We all are hoping the school would bring this activity back to Centerville next year. So, Mrs Athanas if you are reading, hint, hint!!!

Next on the list is definitely The Hour of Code. Every day during Coding Week, students got to wear costumes. Each day had a new theme and we got to show off our coding powers. Ms. Nikki is always trying her best to get everyone into the coding spirit, and she is really good at it.

That will conclude three of the wonderful 2017 memories. Let's fill 2018 with more amazing memories. We can't wait. Happy Holidays everyone.



NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

BY REESE BERMAN



2018 is just around the corner which means it is time to start thinking about New Year's resolutions. What are New Year's resolution you ask? It is a promise that a person makes to himself or herself to improve their life in the new year. It is the perfect time for people of all ages to reflect upon the last year and to start good habits or break bad ones.

I was talking to my friend Gavin and his resolution for the New Year is to eat healthy and exercise. I like his resolution. I decided to ask more people in my class about their New Year's resolution. This is what they shared:

Build a car, win more hockey games, read more, eat more vegetables, help with the dishes, learn a new sport and play a musical instrument. I started bicycle racing competitively about two months ago. So my New Years resolutions is to win more races. After hearing all my friends New Year resolutions I decided that I want to Have you thought about your New Year's resolution?



READING IS SNOW MUCH FUN

BY GAVIN RENNA



Put down your devices and make room for books and reading during this holiday break. Do you have a favorite holiday book? My favorite holiday book has to be *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg. I met the author at a meet and greet at the North Shore Music Theatre which was really cool.

Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or Christmas, I have a list of holiday books that will help you make wonderful family memories.

- *How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr Seuss
- *The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg
- *Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
- *Pete the Cat Saves Christmas by Eric Litwin
- *Llama Llama Holiday Drama by Anna Dewdney
- *The Naughty List by Michael Fry
- *How Santa Got his Job by Stephen Krensky
- *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins by Eric A. Kimmel
- *Way too Many Latkes by Linda Glaser
- *Together for Kwanzaa by Juwanda G. Ford
- *Seven Candles for Kwanzaa by Andrea Davis Pinkney



If you don't own any of these books you can borrow them from the Beverly Public library or you can put it on your Christmas list. It could end up in your stocking!

Happy Reading Everyone!

CLASSIC HOLIDAY MOVIES

BY SYDNEY



&



JOSHUA TAYLOR



Elf is a hilarious Christmas movie about one of Santa's elves (played by Will Ferrell). He learns that he is actually a human and goes to New York City to find his biological father. He spreads lots of cheer on his journey to find his dad.



How the Grinch Stole Christmas

This movie is based on a book by one of our favorite authors Dr Seuss. The movie is about a place called Whoville and its people who love celebrating Christmas except for the Grinch. The Grinch steals everyone's presents and gets into all sorts of mischief.



A Christmas Carol is based on the classic novel by Charles Dickens. The movie is about a grumpy uncaring old man named Ebenezer Scrooge. He is visited by 3 ghosts who help him get his Christmas spirit back.



The Santa Clause is a funny movie about a man named Scott who becomes the new Santa by accident.
