

THE BENGAL BEAT

**Official Newspaper
Green Brook Middle School**



Winter Issue



**2019-2020
NEWSPAPER CLUB**

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Maximus Romeo
Nicholas DiGeronimo
Clinton Drummond**



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Written By: Nicholas DiGeronimo

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Written By: Bayan Mustafa

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Written By: Newspaper Club

ABOUT YOUR AUTHORS



Bayan Mustafa- I'm in 5th grade and am 10 years old. I like to draw and swim in my free time. My favorite sports are basketball and football. My favorite teachers are Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Gallagher. My favorite color is maroon. I joined the Newspaper Club because I enjoy writing!

Maximus Romeo - I am a 5th grader who loves creating things, which is the main reason I am even in Newspaper Club. I like writing about holidays, trends, recipes and so much more! I am 10 years old and have a little brother. I used to have a dog. I LOVE TURTLES! My favorite color is green.

Nicholas DiGeronimo- I'm in 5th grade and I am 11 years old. My favorite sport is baseball. I love country music and skateboards. My favorite part of the middle school is my math class -thanks Mrs. Kowal and Mrs. Metcalfe, you make learning fun!

Addison Dos Santos- I am in 6th grade. I love to swim, read and write. My favorite color is green. I have a puppy named Chewy. My favorite subject is science. I joined the Newspaper Club this year because I enjoy writing stories and being creative!

Clinton Drummond- I am a 6th grade student that loves being active in weird ways. I sometimes pretend to fall and get hurt or let my brother pretend that I am a horse and ride me. Life isn't easy with him. I love listening to older music like Queen and the Jackson 5.

ELF

MOVIE REVIEW

By: Nicholas
DiGeronimo



ELF

84% ROTTEN
TOMATOES

EXTRA!!!

Rated PG

1 hour 37 minutes

Fantasy and Romance

Released Nov. 7, 2003

PLOT SUMMARY

The main character of this hilarious film is Buddy the Elf. When Buddy was a baby in an orphanage, he crawled inside Santa's gift sack. This caused him to spend thirty years of his life living in the North Pole. Buddy always knew he was different from the rest of the elves. However, one day he discovered that he was a human. This tragic news caused Buddy to want to meet his birth father. *ELF* follows Buddy on his journey to New York City to find his dad, Walter Hobbs. Buddy is on a mission to tell Walter that he is his lost son.

Throughout the movie, Buddy experiences the hectic life of being a human in New York City. He gets a job at a toy store, GIMBELS. This job doesn't last long as he fights with an actor Santa. One of my favorite lines from the movie is when Buddy says to the fake Santa- "You smell like beef and cheese! You don't smell like Santa you sit on a throne of lies!" Throughout the movie, Buddy also shows the viewers strange character traits. He eats all of his food with syrup, eats gum off of the city sidewalk and never take off his elf costume. It is very easy to see how Buddy is struggling to adjust to his new life in the City!

Eventually, everyone started to think that Buddy was crazy. People didn't understand why he was dressed in an elf costume and said he came from the North Pole (no one believes in the North Pole, especially the adults!) Christmas Eve soon approaches and Santa runs into a BIG PROBLEM. Christmas Spirit in New York was very low. Since Santa's sleigh flies off of Christmas spirit, it wouldn't fly! With the help of Jovi, Buddy's friend, and the rest of the cast, Buddy helps to save Christmas!

You should watch *ELF* because it is a great family movie with a lot of humor. It is, HANDS DOWN, the best Christmas movie! Elf will keep you happy and fill you with joy during the holiday season.

Fun Facts About

Arctic Animals

ADDISON DOS SANTOS

1

Unlike other owls, snowy owls hunt for food during the day.

2

A Beluga whale's forehead is called a melon.

3

The record for most fish in a puffin's mouth is 62.

4

Arctic foxes can be other colors besides white.

5

Arctic Hares have the ability to run faster than Usain Bolt.

6

The "horn" on a narwhal's head is actually a very large tooth.

7

Polar Bears are the largest carnivores on Earth.

8

A hoof of a Reindeer expands in the summer.

9

In the springtime, a puffin's beak is bright orange, but in the winter it turns dark grey.

10

The nickname for the Wolverine is "skunk bear."



CHRISTMAS TREE HISTORY

Clinton Drummond

Christmas is said to first be celebrated in 336 B.C. The evergreen fir tree has traditionally been used to celebrate winter festivals for thousands of years, but not many people know why we use them.

When the tradition first began, people used the trees branches to decorate because it made them think of spring and warmer weather. Some Christians also used it as a sign of everlasting life with God. In many countries, it was also believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits and illness.



Germany played a huge role in the Christmas Tree tradition. They first decorated trees with gingerbread men and golden apples. The glass makers made special ornaments that were sphere shaped, similar to the ones that we use today. Tinsel was also created in Germany. It was originally made from strips of silver. However, plastic tinsel became popular since it was cheaper to make and looked very similar.

German Settlers brought the Christmas Tree to America in the 1800's and it has been a family tradition ever since. Millions of people around the world use these trees to symbolize the holiday season. As you can see in the attached photo, people get super creative when decorating trees. Some even put them upside down! One of the most famous trees in America is displayed at Rockefeller Center in New York City. It is a must see experience if visiting New York City around the holiday season!

New Year's Eve

By: Bayan Mustafa



This NYC celebration in Time Square began in 1904. In 1907, the drop of the ball tradition began. The celebration of New Year's Eve begins with the lighting and raising of the New Year's Eve ball atop One Times Square in NYC. The ball is lit at 6:00 pm and begins its drop accompanied by special musical guests, balloons, confetti, hats, glasses, noise poppers and LOTS of lights! Many people from all around the world gather to celebrate the new year. It is estimated that one million people gather in Times Square, millions gather together nationwide and over one billion watch the ball drop from home throughout the world.

New Years Eve is a celebration of success and hope for the future. Some people create "New Years Resolutions" of goals they have or want to accomplish. Many love spending this night with all of the people they love!

FACTS ABOUT THE 2019 NEW YEARS

- 83% of America spends less than \$200 on New Year's Eve Celebration*
- 24% of Americas celebrated NYE at home*
- 45% of Americas celebrated NYE with family*
- 15% of America's attended a public event or went to a party*
- 3% of Americans didn't celebrate New Years Eve*



SNOW DAY FUN!

Snow days will be coming (hopefully) soon so get ready for 10 fun things to do in the snow.

- #1 build a snowman!
- #2 do a winter sport!
- #3 have a snowball fight!
- #4 build a snow fort!
- #5 see family!
- #6 make snow angels!
- #7 see friends!
- #8 shovel the snow! Wait that isn't fun.
- #9 jump in snow piles!
- #10 have hot chocolate by the snow!

By: Maximus Romeo

WINTER SPORTS

Here are some awesome winter sports that you should try out!

- Ice Skating
- Skiing
- Snowboarding
- Sledding
- Snow-Tubing
- Ice Fishing
- Ice Hockey

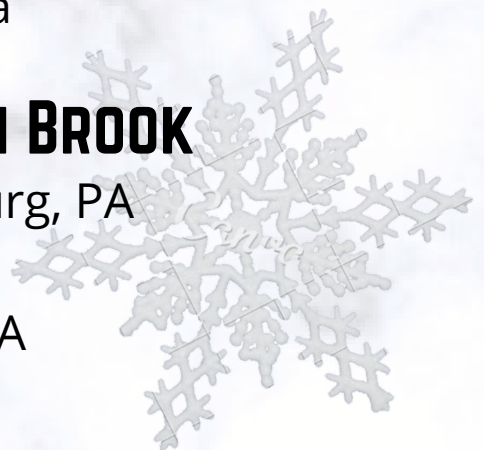


WINTER FUN NEAR GREEN BROOK

- Rock Ice Center in Dunellen
- Green Brook Hockey Club
- Protechockey Ponds Ice Center in Franklin Township
- Bridgewater Sports Arena

SKI RESORTS WITHIN 1 HOUR OF GREEN BROOK

- Shawnee Mountain Ski Area- East Stroudsburg, PA
- Campgaw Mountain Ski Area- Mahwah, NJ
- Camelback Mountain Resort- Tannersville, PA
- Jack Frost Ski Resort- White Haven, PA



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT WINTER INTERVIEW

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



BY ADDISON AND NICHOLAS

1. What's is your favorite sport?

"My favorite sport is basketball."

2. How long have you been a teacher?

"25 years total."

3. What do you love about being a gym teacher?

"I just love having kids exercise to get fit and overall health."

4. What is the worst part of being a gym teacher?

"There is none, I enjoy my job!"

5. What is your favorite sports team?

"New York Rangers."

6. What are some hobbies you do out of school?

"I love running, going to sporting events, listening to music and playing with my 3 dogs."

7. What do you want kids at GBMS to take away from your gym lessons?

"Just lifetime fitness to lead a healthy life."

8. Did you ever want to be something else than a gym teacher?

"I wanted to be a professional baseball player."

9. What is your favorite holiday?

"I love the fourth of July."

10. What is your favorite thing to do in the weight room?

"Lifting weights for my upper body."



HOW TO MAKE GINGER BREAD COOKIES

By Bayan Mustafa

INGREDIENTS

3/4 cup unsalted butter
3/4 cup brown sugar, packed
3/4 cup molasses
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons cinnamon
2 teaspoons ground ginger
1/4 teaspoon allspice or cloves
1 large egg
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda

Prep Time: 35 Minutes
Baking Time: 8-12 Minutes
Total Cooking Time: 1 Hour and 45 Minutes



COOKING INSTRUCTIONS

Melt butter, then stir in the brown sugar, molasses, salt, and spices.

Transfer the mixture to a medium-sized mixing bowl, let it cool and beat in the egg.

Whisk the baking powder and soda into the flour, and then stir the dry ingredients into the molasses mixture. The dough will be very soft but will harden once it is cooled off!

Divide the dough in half and pat each half into a thick rectangle.

Wrap it well and refrigerate the dough for 1 hour.

Preheat your oven to 350°F.

Once the dough has chilled, take one piece of dough out of the refrigerator and flour your table.

Roll the dough 1/8" to 1/4" thick. Make sure it is cool before rolling!

Flour both the top and bottom of the dough.

Cut out shapes with a floured cookie cutter.

Transfer the cookies to an un-greased cookie sheets

Bake the cookies until brown around the edges (8- 12 minutes)

Let the cookies cool on the baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining dough.

Decorate the cookies and Enjoy!

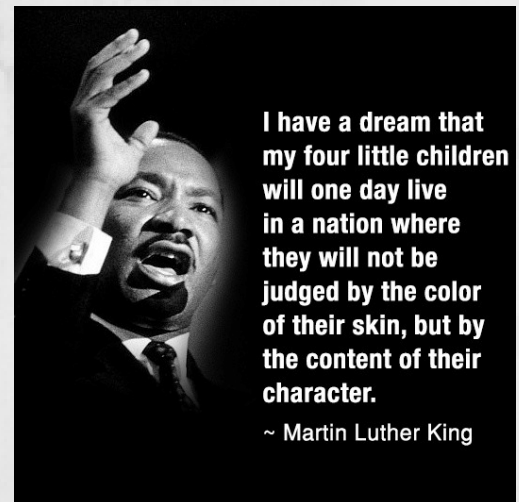


MARTIN LUTHER KING



Martin Luther King was one of the most influential people of his time. King was born on January 15th, 1929 and was most famous for his large involvement in the civil rights movement. As the head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), he used his power to lead peaceful protests and deliver inspirational speeches to help gain peace in America. During the March on Washington in August, 1963, King delivered one of his most well-known speeches, "I Have a Dream" that pushed for equality in the country.

Martin Luther King played a vital role in ending the legal segregation of African-American citizens in the United States, as well as the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. King also won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.



On the evening of April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King was assassinated. After years of campaigning by activists and members of Congress, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill creating a U.S. federal holiday in honor of King in 1983. Martin Luther King Day was first celebrated in 1986. We continue to honor him every year on the third Monday of January.