

Black Cat News

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The Inside Scoop

By Raegan H. & Ava J.



The Coulee Cheese Castle is the hotspot of West Salem. Everyone knows where it is and who to call when they're craving a fresh scoop of ice cream:

Nick, the West Salem mascot, the ice cream man. Although we all know Nick, we might not know everything about him. Nick is a lot of things; not only is he the ice cream man, but an entrepreneur. In this month's feed we decided to interview the one and only, Nick Miller.



Tell us a little bit about yourself: "I grew up on a farm right outside of West Salem and graduated from West Salem High School in 1998. I graduated from UW-L with a degree in Management in 2001 and bought Le Coulee Cheese Castle in June of 2003. After graduating from college, I began searching for a job in the area and discovered that the owners of Le Coulee Cheese were thinking of retiring. So in June of 2003, I purchased the

building and business. I had great memories of this business so I didn't want to see it close."

What is your favorite ice cream flavor?: "My favorite flavor of ice cream is anything with caramel."

What does a typical day look like?: "A typical day at the Cheese Castle starts at 7am with completing any orders that are to be picked up that day. After those are completed, I cut and package cheese, fill ice cream containers, stock products and help customers who stop in. I close at 5:00 each day and typically have about 1 and 1/2 hours of cleanup."

Have you had any other previous jobs?: "I previously worked on my parent's dairy farm while attending school."

What do you like to do outside of work?: "Outside of work, I spend my time working in my yard, helping my parents on the farm, or spending time with family and friends."

continued on page 2



The Inside Scoop continued



What is the origin of Le Coulee Cheese Castle: “Le Coulee Cheese Castle began in Mindoro, WI in 1980. It was started by Duane and Mary Lou Pfaff. Duane was a cheesemaker and opened his store in the Mindoro Creamery. The store name included the word "Castle" because it was located in the very upper room at the creamery.”

What is it like having a sole proprietorship business?: “Owning a sole proprietorship business is challenging, but also rewarding.”

What do you enjoy the most when working?: “I enjoy my customers the most while working. It is fun to meet new people on a daily basis and also great to see many repeat customers each day. I enjoy seeing all of the kids who come in for candy and ice cream each day.”

What is your plan you’re hoping to push through with for the future?: “At this time I don't have any big plans for the future. I hope to continue providing great service and high quality products to the West Salem community.”

What advice would you give someone who is running a local business?: “The advice I would give to anyone running a business is to always be willing to work hard. It takes a lot of time and effort and a solid commitment to your business in order for it to be successful. It is also very important to continue to make sure that your customer base is happy with what your business offers.”



-THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS- BY MACY R.

Thanksgiving is a holiday celebrated in the United States and Canada!

Thanksgiving is always celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, but when Abraham Lincoln was president it was on the last Saturday of November.

The reason we celebrate Thanksgiving is because Native Americans and Pilgrims celebrated harvest season by having a feast with their community. So now most people have big delicious dinners with their family and friends to celebrate being grateful for what they have!

But that's not the only thing you could do on Thanksgiving! You could watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, break the wishbone with a friend or family member for good luck, or watch football! You could also run a Turkey Trot, have a family fall photoshoot, or even get crafty.

<https://www.ef.com/wwen/blog/efacademyblog/top-10-thanksgiving-traditions-in-the-us/>

WEIRD BUT TRUE THANKSGIVING FACTS BY REECE B.

~The author of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" is responsible for making Thanksgiving a holiday

~ "Jingle Bells" was originally written for Thanksgiving

~ People used to dress up for Thanksgiving like they do now for Halloween

~Benjamin Franklin wanted to make our national bird a turkey

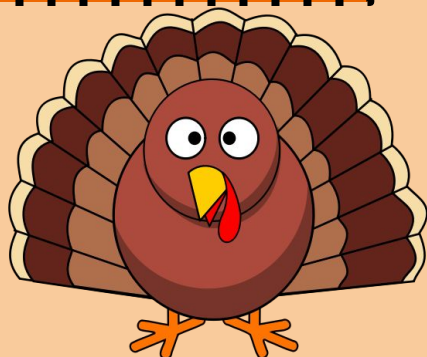
~240 million turkeys are raised to be eaten on Thanksgiving

Source: <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/thanksgiving-ideas/a35457/thanksgiving-trivia/>

~Favorite Thanksgiving Foods~

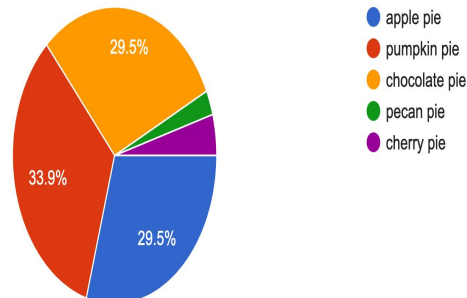
What is Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving is where you come together with your family and friends. You have a big feast and celebrate the harvest and other blessings of the past year. The holiday is a favorite for many people because it is not all about gifts and big decorations. It's about having a big good meal with your family and friends.



What is your favorite kind of pie?

112 responses



Thanksgiving Favorites!

I surveyed the 7th graders about their favorite Thanksgiving food. 112 people replied to survey.

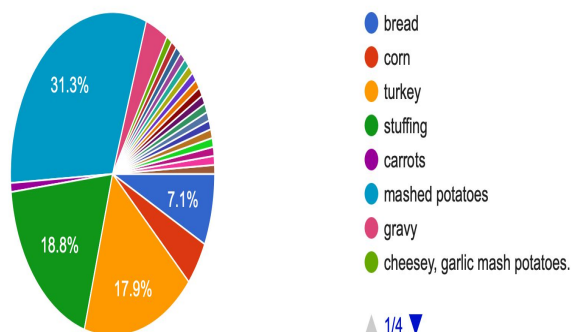
Here are the results:

-Most people liked mashed potatoes with warm gravy on the top. They like it because it's creamy and buttery and always warm.

-A lot of people's favorite pie is pumpkin and close behind it is apple. Apple pie with cinnamon apples in it is also popular.

What is your favorite Thanksgiving food?

112 responses



By - Elise F.

Best Pie Desserts for Thanksgiving

by Mayumi M.

If you can't decide what kind of dessert you want for Thanksgiving but want something easy to make, I have three good ideas for you! The best three ideas are the famous apple, pumpkin, and pecan pie. All of these pies will fill your senses with fall season in the air, making your mouth water.

First up, The original pie Pumpkin pie. This pie may look very hard to make to some people, but it's a very simple process. This pie is almost an angel with whipped cream on top to make it better and more fluffy. It fits in for the cold times of the year.

Next, apple pie! For a dessert you are technically eating healthy with the sweet, sweet apple filling (sometimes covered in cinnamon)! Now that's pretty good.

Finally, the Pecan pie. This pie is very close in running with pumpkin pie but is very different. This pie is filled with pecan nuts and corn syrup. Fun fact: the Pecan pie originated in New Orleans after it was settled by the French. Soon enough, Pecan recipes appeared in Texas cookbooks throughout the 1870s and 1880s.

All in all, these good pies make great Thanksgiving desserts!



Elk Hunting

by Isaac D & Henry K.

As you probably know, the white tail deer hunting season has started. But, elk hunting also started. Elk hunting isn't as popular around here because we don't have elk around here. Elk get a lot bigger and are harder to hunt than white tail deer. The average size for an elk is 500 pounds and 4' 3". The average number of antlers for an elk is six tines on each side which is a 12 pointer. Usually elk season starts in late September, then into October is when rut starts. Rut is another word for mating season. For elk hunters, rut is the easiest time to hunt. During rut, elks bugle, which makes it easier to find the heard. The best time to hunt elk is the morning and evening hours.

This is what an elk bugle sounds like

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gBk04ajuxk>



Fun facts

- The biggest elk ever shot scored at 449 points
- Elk are one of the largest deer species.
- Most elk can run 40 miles per hour
- The average elk weight is 700 pounds
- Elk cover a dozen or more miles each day
- Elk have four chambers of stomachs that aid digestion
- Male elk are called bulls while female elk are called cows

Sources

<https://www.besthuntingtimes.com/elk>

How to Antelope Hunt

By Isaiah L. and Nate S.

We just started antelope hunting this year. Previously, we hunted elk, deer, turkey, and squirrel. Out of all the hunting we've done, antelope is our favorite. You get to spot and stalk and have many second chances. You fail so much that it's worth it by the time you get one. Here's a little bit about what we learned.

We went hunting in Montana. The antelope hunting season there is October 9th to November 14. In spot and stalk, you need to first, spot. In order to do this, we drove around until we spotted an antelope far away. Then, we crept up very slowly, until we were within range. This is the stalk portion of the hunt. Then, if all goes well, you fire and drop the antelope. Fortunately, that is not always the case. We had the privilege to fail many times. That made the harvest of an antelope all the more worth it.

In order to antelope hunt, you need to go out West. Some of the top states to antelope hunt are Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming. The best gun to use is a flat, long distance rifle. By this we mean that it can shoot a long ways and still be accurate. That is the gun that we used to shoot our antelope. Antelope hunting is a lot of fun, and we highly recommend it.



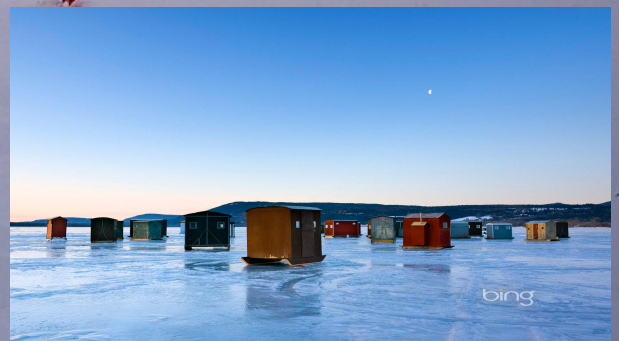
Ice Fishing

Beah L.

Ice fishing is the practice of catching fish with lines and fish hooks or spears through an opening in the ice on a frozen body of water. Ice fishermen may fish in the open or in heated enclosures, some with bunks and amenities. In Wisconsin, bluegill, perch, walleye, bass, crappie and northern pike are the most sought after species in winter. Bluegill and perch are the most commonly caught. Minnows are preferred bait for many of the fish listed. Around West Salem, most people ice fish on Lake Neshonoc..

Ice Fishing Fundamentals: The Cold Facts!

<https://www.purefishing.com/pages/shakespeare-om...>



This is a picture of just some of the kinds of huts you can get to fish in.

Mrs. Czajka

Interviewed by: Macy R. and Reece B.

Why did you want to become a teacher?

Both of my parents were teachers and were always talking about teaching.

What do you like about being a teacher?

I love hanging out and being goofy with the kids.

What are some of your hobbies?

I like shopping, boating, and crafting.



When you were younger did you want to be a teacher?

I wanted to be a flight attendant or a secretary for a big business, but I also wanted to be a teacher.

What would you do if you woke up and your hair was neon orange?

I would embrace it, wear it to school for a few days, but then get it dyed back to normal again.

What was your favorite thing you were for Halloween?

I'm not a big fan of Halloween, but I do remember being really creative with my scarecrow costume.

What is your biggest fear?

I fear others getting an illness because then I don't have any control over it.

What's a job you would hate to have?

I don't want to work in a small cubicle office or any job that doesn't include people around me.

What's one thing most people don't know about you?

In high school I lived in a small town and won Homecoming queen.

What's one thing on your bucket list you hope you do?

Skydiving when I turn 60 and traveling to other countries.

Mrs. Piersma

(7th grade math teacher)

Q: Why did you choose to become a math teacher?

A: "Math has always been my favorite subject and I love working with kids, so I knew I wanted to be a math teacher"

Q: What's your first name?

A: "Jenna"

Q: When's your birthday?

A: "May 14"

Q: What's your favorite color(s)?

A: "Purple"

Q: What's your favorite book?

A: Where the Crawdads Sing

Q: What's your biggest pet peeve?

A: "When people are talking when someone else is presenting/teaching"

Q: Do you have a favorite type of music (If yes, what)?

A: "Yes, Country"

Q: Do you have a favorite sport (if yes what)?

A: "Cross Country and track"

Q: What is your favorite childhood memory?

A: "when my family took a vacation to South Dakota and Colorado"

Q: Have you traveled (If yes, where and what was your favorite place)?

A: "Yes, I haven't traveled outside of the US, but my favorite places are New Orleans and Grand Teton National Park."

Q: Do you have kids (If yes, how many and what are their names)?

A: "No"

Q: Where did you go to college?

A: "Wartburg"

Q: What was your favorite subject in school?

A: "Math"



By: Karalei J.

Mrs. Coe

(8th grade math teacher)

What is your Birthday:

December 27

What is your favorite animal:

Otter

If you could travel anywhere where would you go:

Australia

Do you have a small family:

No 3 sisters, 1 brother, mom, dad, 6 nieces/nephews, 2 daughters, and 1 husband

What are your hobbies:

Gardening, reading, and cooking

What is your favorite quote:

"Just when you think you can't, you can."

What is your favorite season:

Spring

What would you do if you won a million dollars:

Pay off student loans

What is your favorite board game:

Sequence

What is your favorite thing to do:

Garden

What is your favorite color:

Teal



by Sam M.

Get to Know Mr. Brewer

By Brooke R

When did you start teaching?

"I started teaching in fall of 2011. I was hired at West Salem Elementary School that year and decided to move to the middle school the next year."

What is your favorite part about teaching?

"The kids. I love seeing your smiling faces every day!"

Why did you become a teacher?

"I became a teacher because I had such amazing teachers when I was a kid. I wanted to give back just like they did. When I was in 7th grade, Ms. Lobeck told me that I was a great leader and should find a job where I would lead others."

What do you do in your free time?

"In my free time, I do a lot with family. We recently bought a boat and we do fishing in the summer. I also hunt (deer and turkeys mostly). I also like to garden and harvest vegetables in the fall."

What is your favorite color?

"My favorite color is orange because I love the fall season and the Cleveland Browns."

What is your favorite season?

"My favorite season is fall because I can wear a hoodie and be comfy! I love crisp mornings and nights but nice temps all day. I also love hunting and collecting vegetables."

Do you have kids?

"I have two daughters. Natalie is nine years old and in 3rd grade. Ava is six years old and in 1st grade. Both of my girls go to Evergreen Elementary in Holmen because I live in Holmen."

Do you have pets?

"We have a goldfish named Goldie."



Interviewing Mrs. Hemker by Addy M.

Why did you want to be an art teacher?

a: I love to work with kids and love making new projects.

Have you always wanted to teach art?

a: Yes, I have.

What do you like about teaching art?

a: I love watching kids figure things out. I also think that middle schoolers are super funny!

Have you ever wanted to go skydiving?

a: No way. I would rather go on a roller coaster.

Do you consider yourself brave? Why?

a: Yes, I'm not afraid of trying new things.

What is your favorite food?

a: Watermelon

If you had three wishes, what would you wish for?

a: No one would be hungry in the world, everyone would have shelter, and there wouldn't be any more wars.

If you had to describe yourself using three words what would they be?

a: Artistic, Outgoing, Funny

What is your favorite type of music?

a: A little bit of everything

Do you like to watch sports?

a: Nope

What is your favorite kids' movie?

a: Frozen and any Shrek movie



Billionaires going to space

by Rory D.

Jeff Bezos, founder of Blue Origin, and Richard Branson, co-founder of Virgin Galactic, have been racing to see who could get into space first. On July 11, along with five crew mates, Richard Branson was the first to go to space. But only nine days later on July 20, Jeff Bezos went up to space on the New Shepherd vessel. A lot of people are saying that Elon Musk is trying to get into space. But, at the moment, no sign of Elon making a move to go to space has been noticed.

Sources: cbs8.com and

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/14/tech/jeff-bezos-richard-branson-elon-musk-space-race-scn/index.html>

Facts about the billionaire space race

- The purpose of the billionaire space race is to make humanity multiplanetary
- The U.S government and NASA help fund Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic



This is Jeff Bezos (left) and Richard Branson (right)



This is a Blue Origin rocket

The Christmas Supply Chain Shortages

by Braxton A.

Planning on getting a loved one or close friend a gift? It might not be easy as you think. In December there may be some shortages. From children's toys to car parts, there has been a tangled up traffic jam of supplies lately.

This dilemma started in mid-September. There are 62 cargo ships off of southern California. Each of those cargo ships can hold up to 24,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit). The amount of TEUs that are on the California coast are roughly 250,000. Due to these problems Joe Biden is recommending to buy your Christmas gifts in early to middle November.

Source:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2021-10-04/out-of-stock-shortages-for-christmas-shopping-put-retailers-at-risk>



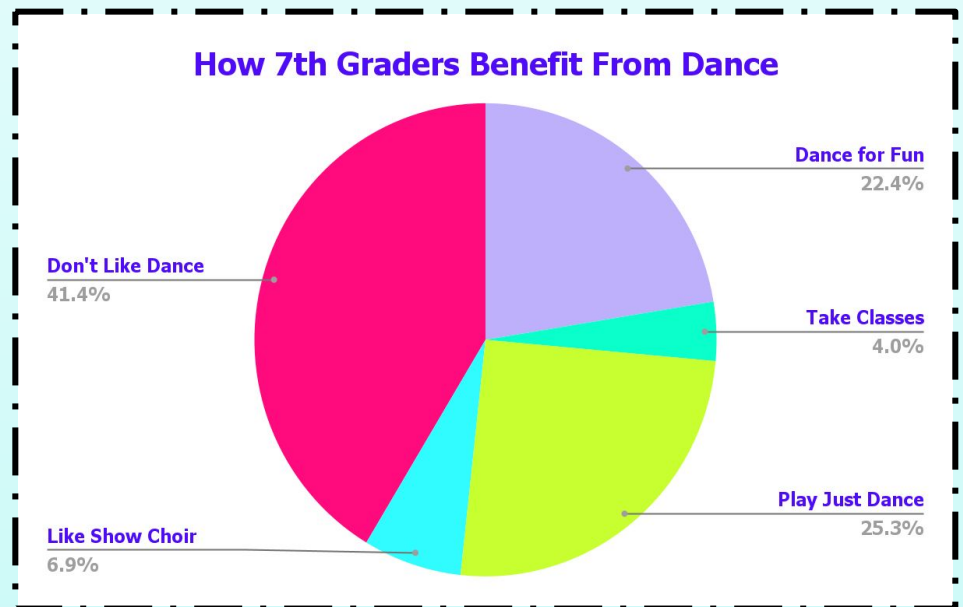
Benefits of Dancing

By Natalie C.

Many people think that dance is not as beneficial as other sports and because of that, does not even qualify as a sport. The truth is, dance is not only a sport, but is also an art form. Dancing is a great way to exercise whether it is taking actual classes or just dancing around your house for fun. Dance helps make your bones stronger and can improve the condition of your heart and lungs. Increased strength, better coordination, flexibility, and agility are also benefits of dance. By taking classes, dancers learn discipline and focus and tend to be good students and hard-workers.

Popular Dance Styles

- Ballet
- Jazz
- Tap
- Hip Hop
- Musical Theater
- Lyrical
- Modern
- Contemporary
- Ballroom



"Some people dream of success while others wake up and work for it"

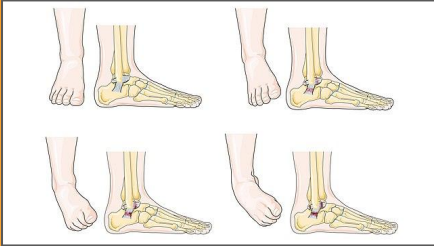
-Misty Copeland

To learn more visit [Dance - health benefits](#)



How Safe Is Your Sport?

By: Bri P.



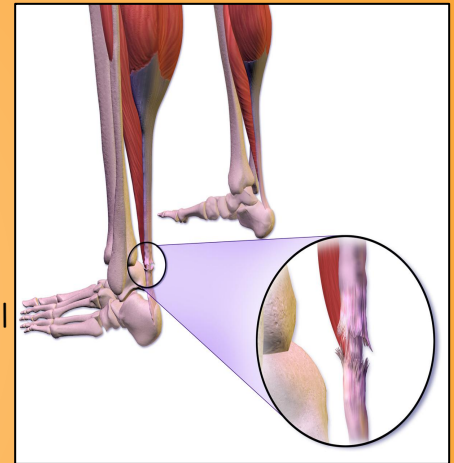
Definitions:

ACL- anterior cruciate ligament

Please do not be offended if a sport you like is not in this article, and there is no order in the best or worst sport. Just facts.

Do you know how safe your favorite sport is? I'm going to talk about different sports and the most common injuries that can happen while playing them.

I'll start with soccer, which I know many West Salem students play and enjoy. The most common injury is in the ankle. Many sprains can happen when you turn your foot inward while dribbling the ball or while running. Luckily an ankle sprain can heal, but it can take up to three weeks if you do follow the proper instructions of your doctor.



Next, I'll talk about gymnastics, which happens to be my favorite sport. In gymnastics it is very common to damage your ACL, or another very common injury is tearing your achilles tendon. A torn achilles tendon can heal, but it will take weeks to heal. Your ACL, though, almost always needs surgery to repair.

Cross Country is another very popular sport at West Salem. Since there is constant running in the sport, it is very common to have shin splints which is a constant throbbing pain in the shins caused by the pounding while running. Shin splints heal with the right amount of time to rest your legs. Runner's knee is another very common injury in cross country. This is where the cartilage of the knee gets worn down because of constant use. The good news is runner's knee does heal with proper care.



The final sport that I will be mentioning today is basketball. The most common injuries in basketball are in the ankle and hip. Ankle injuries happen most often when rolling the ankle, or even getting stepped on by another player. You can injure your hip by lots of pivoting, rebounding, and more.

The Most Common Football Injuries

by Jarett P.

- Some of the most common football injuries contain of

-

- Ankle sprains

-

- Knee injuries including acl mcl - - - -

-

- Quad - - - - -

-

- Hamstring - - - - -

-

- Groin strains - - - - -

-

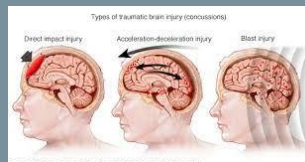
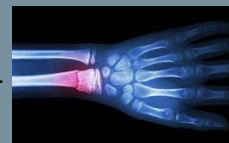
- Shoulder dislocated - - - -

-

- Wrist and hand injuries - - - - -

-

- Concussions - - - - -



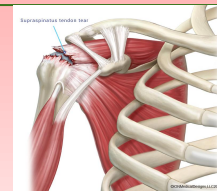
The Most Common Baseball Injuries

By Owen H.



As we both play baseball, we wanted to know the most common baseball injuries. We used www.selectphysicaltherapy.com as our source.

* A torn rotator cuff is common for a pitcher



*The UCL is one of the most common arm injuries

*Pitchers will sometimes have dead arm. This is when the throwing arm gets overused and gets strained.



*The Labral muscle is used to keep the shoulder tight to its socket and it tears a lot due to overuse or misuse



*You can also get muscle strains or sprains while playing.



Movies to Remember

Have you been bored lately watching the same movies over and over again? Well, here are some movies that I like to watch that you should watch. Since the holidays are coming up, maybe you want to watch *Ghostbusters*, *The Addams Family*, *Casper*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Hocus Pocus*, and *The Goonies*. Or, if you want some tears, you should watch *E.T*, *Big Miracle*, *Hachi*, *Bridge to Terabithia*, and *Charlotte's Web*.

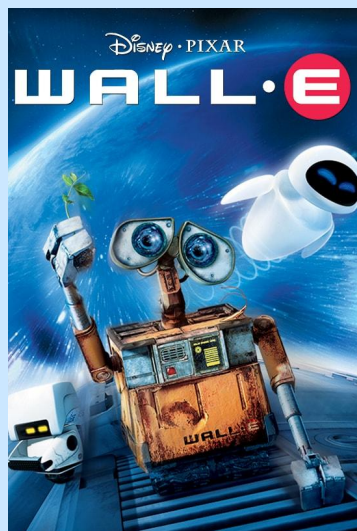


If you want to have a good laugh, watch *Parent Trap*, *Grease*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Jumanji*, *Matilda*, *Sandlot*, *Honey I Shrunk the Kids*, *BFG*, *Paddington*, *Dennis the Menace*, *Mary Poppins*, *Karate Kid*, *Harry Potter*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *Back to the Future*, *Star Wars*, and *Night at the Museum*.

One of my favorite musicals, if you like musicals, is *The Sound of Music*.

Maybe you are just looking for cartoons well then you can watch, *Kung Fu Panda*, *Hotel Transylvania*, *Up*, *Wall-E*, *Anastasia*, *A Bug's Life*, *Incredibles*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Ratatouille*, *Shrek*, *How to Train your Dragon*, *Madagascar*, *Toy Story*, *Monsters inc*, *Ice Age*, *Cars*, *Lilo and Stitch*, and *The Lorax*.

Those are just some of the movies I love to watch.



A Minecraft world you can join right now!

By Rico G and Lucas F



If you play on Xbox, Playstation, Nintendo Switch, Mobile, or PC, and you own bedrock edition, you can join us!

In the freedom realm..

You can do whatever you want! Build the house of your dreams, team with all your friends, strike gold and hit it big. The possibilities are endless! But remember, be on guard for enemies too. Not everyone's idea of free is the same...

In the freedom realm..

Become a part of history! The realm has a history of up to two years...and sometimes the owner, Rico, documents the history. Become a living legend...in a block game. What are you waiting for? Play today. The realm code is at the bottom.

Fun Facts about Minecraft

THE FIRST VERSION OF MINECRAFT WAS CREATED IN
JUST SIX DAYS!

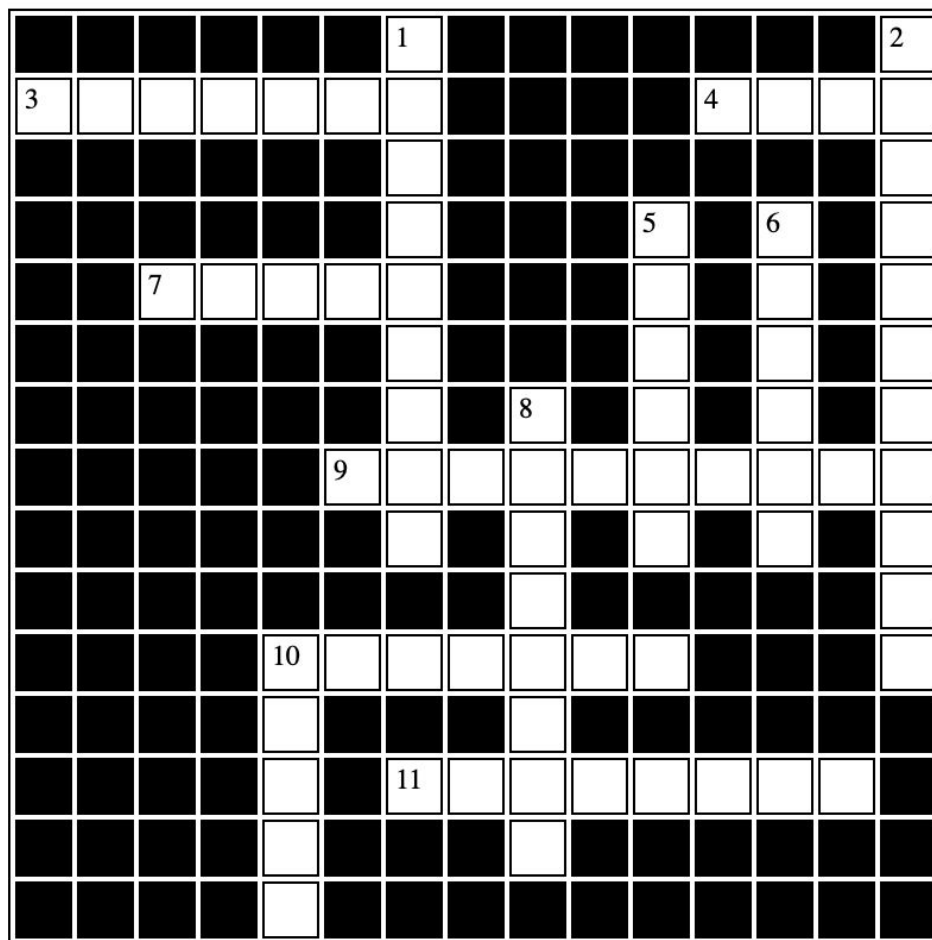
THE LONGEST TIME BETWEEN UPDATES WAS 545 DAYS
WITH 1.8 AND 1.9!

THE MINECRAFT WORLD IS 4 TIMES BIGGER THAN
PLANET EARTH!

Realm Code: 2iBug30QnyA (capitalization required)

Winter Crossword

Evie W



Across

3. The red nosed reindeer.
4. Where presents are found under on Christmas.
7. What helps Santa make toys.
9. The day in February that celebrates love.
10. The snow sculpture that looks like a human.
11. What you get under the tree.

Down

1. The holiday where you get presents under a tree.
2. The last day of the year.
5. The snowman that came to life with a magic hat.
6. The time of waiting before Christmas.
8. The first month in winter.
10. The man who delivers presents to kids' houses on Christmas.

December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 National Pie Day	2 National Fritters Day	3 National Roof Over Your Head Day	4 National Cookie Day	5 International Ninja Day	6 National Pawnbrokers Day	7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
8 National Brownie Day	9 National Pastry Day	10 Dewey Decimal System Day	11 National App day	12 National Ambrosia Day	13 National Cocoa Day	14 National Monkey Day
15 Cupcake Day	16 National Chocolate Covered Anything Day	17 National Maple Syrup Day	18 National Twin Day	19 National Hard Candy Day	20 National Mudd Day	21 Crossword Puzzle Day
22 Date Nut Bread Day	23 National Re-gifting Day	24 National Eggnog Day	25 Pumpkin Pie Day	26 National Candy cane Day	27 National Fruitcake Day	28 Short Film Day
29 National Pepper Pot Day	30 National Bacon Day	31 National No Interruptions Day				

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