

Black Cat News

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Holly Days!

It's back! After a year off, WSMS celebrated the holidays at school.

During the month of December students once again partnered with the West Salem Lions Club and collected hundreds of goods to be delivered to area families.



Homerooms enjoyed some friendly competition with the following dress up days:

Monday **Ugly Sweater Day**
 Tuesday **Holly Jolly Day**
 Wednesday **Holly Jolly Day**
 Thursday **Holiday Pajamas**

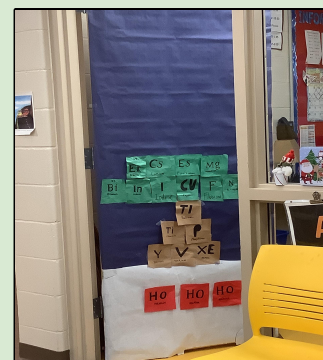
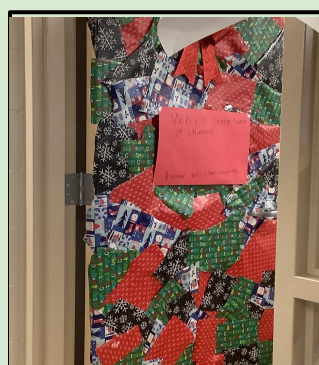
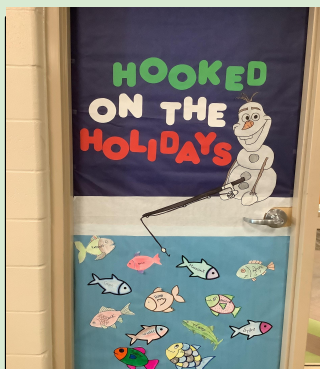
Thursday's schedule included two assemblies. First, in the morning, everyone gathered in the gym for the academic, athletic, and club awards. Then, later in the day, we all met again for some holiday fun. This year's contests between the Homerooms included:

Hungry, Hungry Reindeer
 Pass the Reindeer
 Steal the Presents
 Race to the Clauses
 Know Your Teacher Trivia

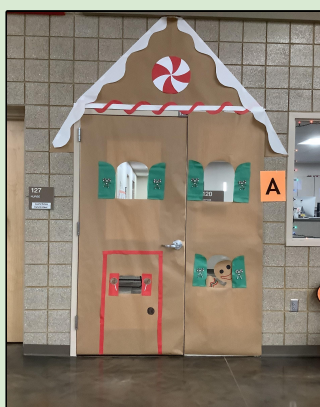
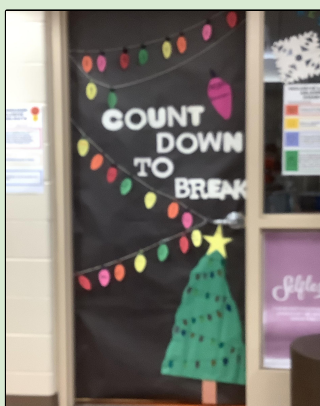


Holiday Door Decorating

by Evelyn R.

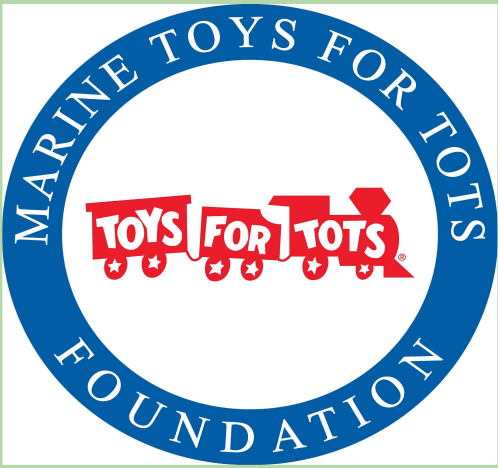


This year door decorating was just for fun instead of being a competition between all the Homerooms. Each Homeroom decorated the classroom door with a theme they chose. Here are a few of the great doors around school.



Toys For Tots Charity

by Breah L.



This is a picture of the Salvation Army wrapping the present for all the little kids before Christmas



This is a picture of the soldiers giving the kids presents on Christmas.

The Salvation Army's Angel Giving Tree and JCL La Crosse TOYS for Tots are all working as a team this Christmas season to help as many families as possible. This program which assists families in need, will provide gifts such as toys, clothing, and a food basket to families and their children who might not be able to afford anything for Christmas.

How can you help, you ask? Well, right here in our La Crosse county there is a toy drive every year where they collect all the gifts. You can take your gifts to the La Crosse Jaycee Hall at 1707 Main Street, La Crosse, WI 54601 and help your community be a better place and make some little kid smile on Christmas morning.

Some kids aren't even able to get food on the table at dinner, but this way, everyone will have a good Christmas. There will be music and lights and tons and tons of presents for every little girl and boy. And you can help make this all happen.



THE POWER OF CHRISTMAS MIRACLES

The Man Who Woke up On Christmas After Falling 47 stories
by Breckin C.

Alcides and Edgar Moreno were window washers for New York City's Solow Tower. Back on December 7th, 2007 they were on scaffolding when the machine collapsed. The brothers then proceeded to fall 47 stories down to an alley below them. Edgar was suddenly killed as he hit the ground, but Alcides survived the fall and was rushed to the hospital. As he arrived at the hospital the doctors said they had to perform surgery on him to save his life. In the next 18 days Alcides fell into a coma and underwent nine more surgeries. He also needed gallons of blood and plasma transfused into his body. After having a little time to recover from all this trauma, he ended up waking up on Christmas Day. Alcides now walks for charity to raise money for his church's food pantry. Because of his fighting and what the doctors were able to do for him, Moreno can now be a regular dad for his children, like take them to volleyball and work out at a gym. People have labeled him as a walking miracle.



Christmas Song Trivia

by Landon W.



It's that time of year again. Christmas songs. Some people can't stand them, and then some people, like me, think they're the greatest thing of the season. The rule in my family is once Halloween is over, Christmas songs are allowed. So I thought I would put down the origin/reason behind some of the most popular songs of the season. I'll be doing "Jingle Bell Rock," "Jingle Bells," and "Frosty The Snowman."

"Jingle Bell Rock"

As you may know, "Jingle Bell Rock" was based off of the song "Jingle Bells." The original song was first released in 1957. Les Paul sang the original song although you may know Bing Crosby to be the most popular. The instrumental background is trumpet, two different types of saxophones and clarinets.

"Frosty The Snowman"

In the 1950s, a holiday song was introduced, "Frosty the Snowman." The song was about a snowman who came alive when a magical silk hat was placed on his head. Originally the story behind the song was not Christmas themed. It became Christmas themed after it was in a movie. In the movie, Santa says that Frosty never truly melted and would always come back.

"Jingle Bells"

This familiar song was created in the 1850s! That's old. It was originally called "The One Horse Open Sleigh." The reason behind the original name of the song was the writer, James Lord Pierpont, wanted to write something to commemorate the town's annual sleigh races around Thanksgiving. After some time, the song went global and is now one of the most well known Christmas songs in America. After about ten years of being out, it was officially known as a Christmas song.



Most Played Christmas Songs in 2021

By Addy M.

Below are popular Christmas songs. The artist I've listed sang the most listened to version according to Spotify. I also included what year the song was written or released.



1. "All I Want For Christmas is You"
Written & Sang By: Mariah Carey (released in 2011)

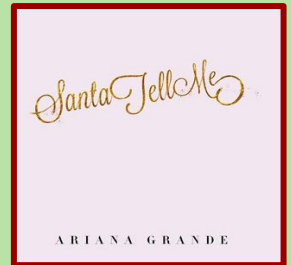


2. "Silent Night" (written in 1818)
Sang By: The Piano Guys



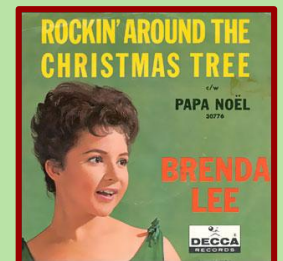
3. "Last Christmas"
Sang By: Wham! (in 1984)

4. "Santa Tell Me"
Sang By: Ariana Grande (in 2014)



5. "O Holy Night" (1847)
Sang By: The Christmas Guys

6. "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree"
Made By: Brenda Lee (in 1958)



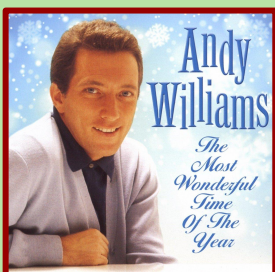
7. "It's Beginning To Look a Lot Like Christmas" (1951)
Sang By: Michael Bublé



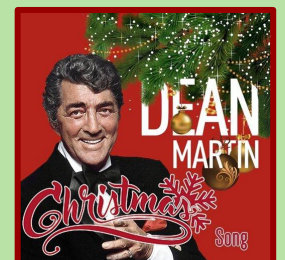
8. "Jingle Bell Rock"
Sang By: Bobby Helms (in 1957)



9. "It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year"
Sang By: Andy Williams



10. "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" (in 1945)
Sang By: Dean Martin



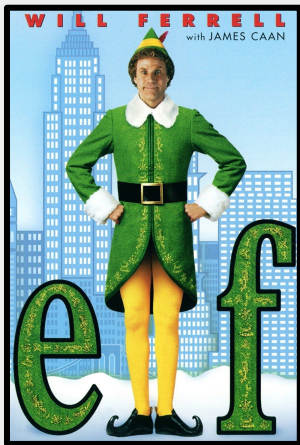
HOLIDAY MOVIES

P.S. we're back!!!!



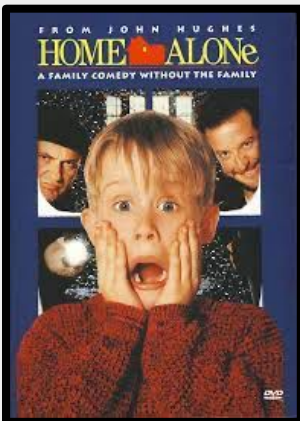
How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2008)- PG
Reviewer: Brooke S

Love, love, love this movie. Obviously the best Christmas movie of all time. This movie can make you laugh non stop and having Jim Carrey in it made it the bomb.com. I would rate this movie a 10/10.



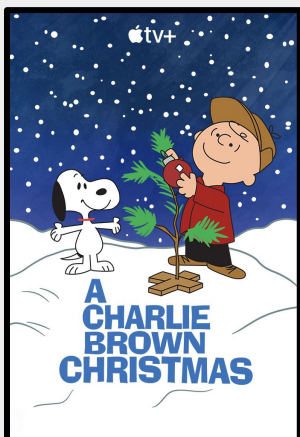
Elf (2003)- PG
Reviewer: Julia H

Elf is a movie that you could and should watch every Christmas. It'll make you laugh, smile, all of the above. This movie is an amazing comedy and an even greater Christmas movie. It includes all the right things: romance, comedy, and Christmas spirit. I would rate this movie a 9.5/10.



Home Alone (1990)- PG
Reviewer: Makena F

Home Alone is a classic like no other. The acting is terrific and the plot is amazing. I love the suspenseful aspect of it. This is such a good movie for all ages too. Honestly, the original is definitely the best, so if you're wondering which one to watch, watch this one! I would rate this movie a 10/10.



A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965)-
not rated
Reviewer: Takoria M

A Charlie Brown Christmas is a very iconic movie. It teaches us about holiday cynicism, commercialism, and that even if we get the worst looking, most annoying tree, a little bit of tender love and care can turn that tree into something beautiful. It's about how to take joy from the simplest things. I would rate this movie a 8.5/10

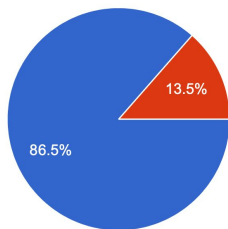
Most Watched Netflix Shows in 7th Grade

by Lexi M & Dhalia S

We wanted to know the most popular Netflix shows among 7th graders. Ninety-six people replied to the survey. As you can see from the graphs below, the most popular show in 7th grade is Squid Games. In second place is Stranger Things, and in third place is Outer Banks. Most of 7th grade has Netflix as the pie chart shows while a few don't have or haven't watched Netflix. Many people added other shows they have watched as well.

Do you currently have/watch Netflix?

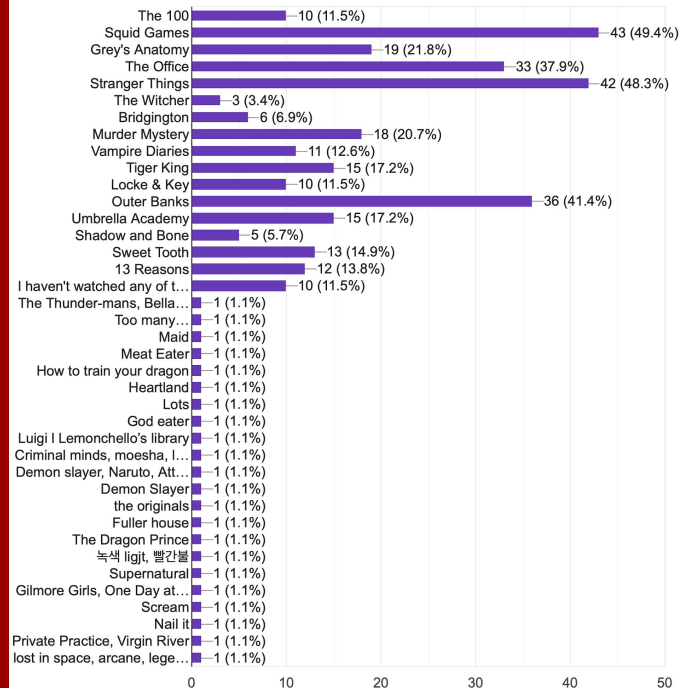
96 responses



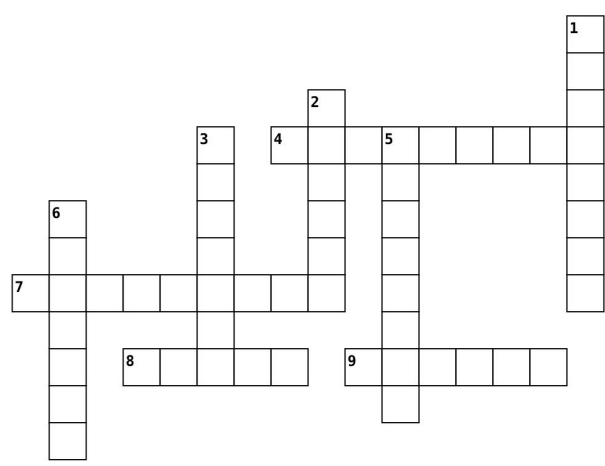
● Yes
● No

If so, what shows have you watched? Select all that apply.

87 responses



Puzzles by Zachary N.



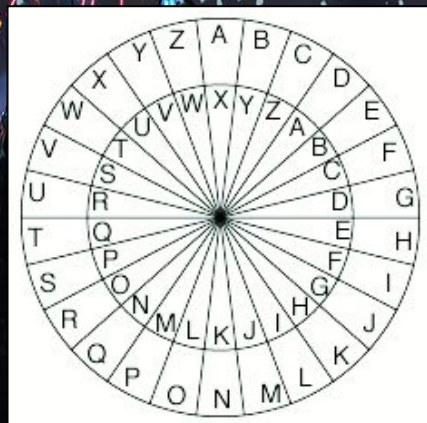
- Across**
4. it's the final...
7. BOOM!
8. more snacks
9. the people you spend it with
- Down**
1. 12:00 am
2. entertainment
3. snacks
5. 2022
6. sleepovers with...

New Year's Eve Word Search

E	M	F	Y	M	U	S	I	C	U	I	F	S	N
I	A	N	I	A	I	E	Y	S	O	E	E	O	
A	I	E	O	R	I	D	O	A	I	C	S	G	I
E	T	W	C	T	E	E	G	S	T	T	T	N	T
S	T	Y	M	E	D	C	H	A	H	M	I	I	C
R	E	E	A	U	L	O	R	G	O	N	V	C	E
E	F	A	S	W	L	E	I	A	A	U	I	N	L
M	N	R	K	I	N	N	B	E	C	H	T	A	F
A	O	M	D	I	D	E	T	R	C	K	I	D	E
E	C	A	O	I	T	H	H	C	A	A	E	I	R
R	Y	R	M	S	R	E	E	H	C	T	S	R	E
T	A	N	W	O	D	T	N	U	O	C	E	S	E
S	F	W	O	I	Y	T	R	A	P	O	E	B	E
E	I	R	B	A	L	L	O	O	N	S	T	N	S

- FIRECRACKER
- CHEERS
- DANCING
- STREAMERS
- CONFETTI
- REFLECTION
- CELEBRATE
- MIDNIGHT
- BALLOONS
- COUNTDOWN
- MUSIC
- NEW YEAR
- HOLIDAY
- PARTY
- MASK
- FESTIVITIES

EXMMVKBT YBXO



Holiday Recipes

By: Kara J.

By: Evelyn M.

Pizza Candy Cane Crescent

Ingredients

- One 8-ounce tube rolled crescent dough (refrigerated)
- 1/3 cup pizza sauce
- shredded mozzarella
- slices pepperoni

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Unroll the dough and separate the triangles along the lines. (you should have sixteen triangles).
3. Overlap two pieces of parchment paper to make a 24 inch long piece.
4. Arrange the triangles lengthwise. (point ends up, flat ends overlap slightly).
5. Gently press the overlapping pieces of dough together.
6. Spread sauce on the dough , and sprinkle cheese over the sauce, then top layer with pepperoni.
7. Fold the pointy ends of the dough over top of the pepperoni.
8. Gently curve the top of the dough to make it look like a candy cane.
9. Transfer the pizza on the parchment paper to a baking sheet.
10. *8-10 minutes in the oven, of until golden brown.
11. Add a bow for fun (parsley leaves work nice)

Hershey Pretzel

Ingredients

- 12 oz bag of hershey hugs.
- 60 square waffle shaped Pretzels
- 11 oz bag of red and green M&M's

Directions

1. Cover baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Lay out pretzels on baking sheet.
3. Add hershey hugs on pretzels.
4. Put pretzels in oven till the chocolate melts parchaly.
5. Take out of oven and add one M&M on top and and wait for it to cool.
6. Enjoy!

Holiday Recipes continued

Gingerbread Cookies

Ingredients

- 10 Tablespoons unsalted butter (room temp)
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 2/3 cup molasses
- 1 large egg (room temp)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 and 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 Tablespoon ground ginger
- 1 Tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves

Directions

1. In a large bowl beat the butter for one minute.
2. Add the brown sugar and molasses and stir until combined.
3. Add the egg and vanilla.
4. In a separate bowl mix flour, baking soda, salt, ginger, cinnamon, and cloves till combined.
5. Slowly mix the ingredients until cookie dough is formed.
6. Preheat oven to 350
7. Line baking sheet with parchment paper.
8. Generously flour your surface and roll out your cookie dough.
9. Cut out your cookies as you want them.
10. Bake for 9-10 minutes.

Christmas Quotes

Bella Q. and Kylie E.

"May you never be
too grown up to
search the skies on
Christmas Eve"
— Unknown

"It's not about what's under the
tree but what's around it."

—From the Charlie Brown Movie

"May your holiday season fill
your home with joy and heart
with love and your life with
laughter."
—Unkown

"Christmas is doing a little extra
for someone."

—Charles M Schulz



"It's not how much we give
but how much love we put
in to giving."

—Mother Theresa

Student Council

By Jack T.

Student Council is a fun before school activity where you get to plan some of our fun incentive days.

What do you do at a meeting?

At your typical meeting, you will meet at school at 7:15 AM, and you meet in the classroom told to you the day before. You then take a seat and wait for everyone to get there. You talk about upcoming incentive days or weeks. You get to plan for some days like PJ day, dress up days, and others. You also get to plan food drives, plan student assemblies, and make things for classrooms to decorate, like painting boxes for homerooms to decorate.

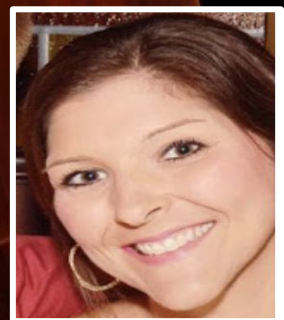
Why should you join Student Council?

If you like to help with the school's biggest events, you should really consider joining.

This activity helps with your team building skills, and makes you confident with your speech skills in front of people.

Members: Addy J, Elliot W, Grace B, Katie T, Lydia J, Maddie H, Maddie S, Mason C, Natalee R, Natalie W, Olivia M, Addy M, Breeley O, Grace J, Lily H, Macy R, Addy P, Graham S, Lily O, Natalie C, Sam M, Tyler K, Alexis A, Claire G, Colin H, Connor F, Connor W, Eleanor P, Eleanor S, Emerick W, Evan B, Ihlee S, Kiley O, Kynzley H, Nadia H, Nehemiah S, Owen M, Peyton J, Sam B, Tanner M, William S

Student Council Advisors: 2021



Mrs Coe (8th grade math)




Mrs Burdick (5th grade S.S.)



Picture of Student Council from two years ago.

Month of January by Tristan S.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1. New Year's Day 
2. National Buffet Day	3. National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day	4. National Trivia day	5. National Whipped Cream Day	6. National Technology Day	7. National Bobblehead Day	8. National English Toffee Day
9. National Sunday Super Day	10. National Bittersweet Chocolate Day	11. National Step in a Puddle and Splash Your Friends Day	12. National Curried Chicken Day	13. National Rubber Ducky Day	14. National Dress Up Your Pet Day	15. National Bagel Day
16. National Nothing Day	17. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18. National Winnie the Pooh Day	19. National Popcorn Day	20. National Cheese Lover's Day	21. National Squirrel Appreciation Day	22. Celebration of Life Day
23. National Pie Day	24. National Compliment Day	25. National Opposite Day	26. National Peanut Brittle Day	27. National Chocolate Cake Day	28. National Blueberry Pancake Day	30. National Croissant Day
					29. National Puzzle Day	31. National Hot Chocolate Day