



December 10, 2015  
Volume 5 Issue 2

# Observer

Bringing News Close to Home

Blood Drive, Poinsettias & More

Your monthly announcements from the nest

Christmas Festivities in Hornell

Some of your favorite nearby holiday activities

New Star Wars!!!

Get ready for *The Force Awakens*

The Bills

Catch up with a midseason report

*Happy Holidays  
from the  
Observer Staff!*



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## Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers of the *Observer*,

Our entire staff would like to thank all of you for your support with our first edition. We appreciate everything you do to make our school paper possible.

Our last edition was a huge success because of all of you. We all appreciate that you enjoyed the last edition of the *Observer*. In this edition we explore local holiday events, expectations of the winter sports teams, and other fun articles. We have also included fun holiday themed games on the last page.

The *Observer* would like to wish everyone a Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year. Without your support this paper would not be possible. Thank you for everything that you do!

### Have an idea for the paper?

Contact the Observer staff:

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[mbacker@acsapps.com](mailto:mbacker@acsapps.com)

## Mission & Vision

### *Bringing News Close to Home*

Our mission as *The Alfred-Almond Observer* is to become a high quality source of informative and entertaining news that relates to the members of the Alfred-Almond community. The goal for the paper is to expand the knowledge of our readers and to contribute to the development of a more informed community.

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By  
**Levi Lawrence**  
Public Relations Manager

# Announcements from the Nest!



**Blood drive.** Give a portion of your blood to support the cause! Photo from [rlcnn.org](http://rlcnn.org).

Mark your calendars! Alfred-Almond Central School will be hosting a blood drive for the Red Cross organization. It will take place Monday, December 14, in the high school auditorium. Walk-ins are welcome, but if you would like to secure a time to give blood, call 1-800-red cross, or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) ASAP to potentially save a life.



**Red Poinsettias.** Donate a portion of money, receive beautiful flowers! Photo from [irisremembers.com](http://irisremembers.com)

Are you ready for the Holidays? The Spanish Club will be selling Spanish Poinsettias. For more information, talk to a Spanish Club member, or speak directly with Mrs. Burr, the Spanish Teacher. Do not procrastinate, buy your flowers soon! They can be bought in pink, red, white, or even in a marbled pattern!



**AACS Literary Festival!** A fun writing competition for all students. Photo from [clipartpanada.com](http://clipartpanada.com)

Attention all students! If you enjoy writing and like to express yourself, the 2015 Literary Festival may be right up your alley. Submit any poems, short stories, class books, and autobiographies to the high school library. Entries are due February 11, 2016, by 4:00 pm. The festival itself will take place on March 15 and is something you do not want to miss! There are prizes for the best compositions submitted.



**International Day!** A chance to experience different cultures. Photo from [Aston.ac](http://Aston.ac)

Have you ever wanted to experience a new culture or learn about local history? If so, stop by Alfred - Almond Central School on January 14, 2016. This first annual event will be hosted by A-A's School Improvement Team. Contributions are encouraged, such as food, a form of currency, games, or even dance. For more information or to sign up, visit Mrs. Backer in room 250 or use this online form: <http://goo.gl/forms/qhCcqGmuQc>

Have an announcement for the Observer? Fill out a form @ <http://goo.gl/forms/AxVEuwru3i>



**Happy Holidays  
from the  
Observer Staff!**



By  
Kelsey Cline  
Photo Editor

# Hornell's Holiday Festivities

## Christmas Caroling

**December 12**

Caroling will be held on Main Street from 11 am-2 pm with Orpheus Chorale perform downtown.

**December 19**

Caroling will be held on Main Street from 11 am-2 pm with the Alfred-Almond Brass Choir performing.

## Gingerbread Dream House

**December 12**

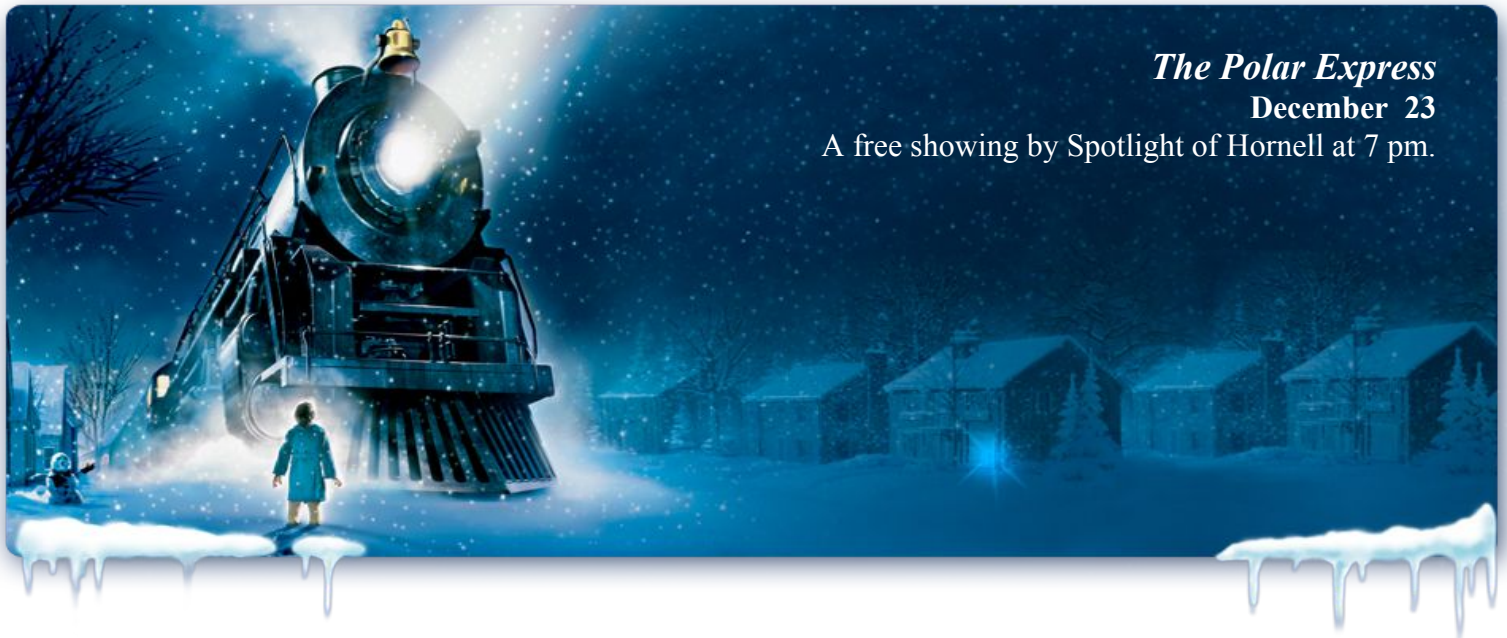
Wegmans will be having a hands-on class for children and their parents to make gingerbread houses at 1 pm. There will be hot cocoa and holiday cookies for the children while they decorate. You can purchase tickets at the Wegmans' service desk.

## Holiday Joys Concert

**December 13**

The Hornell Area Wind Ensemble is having their annual Concert at 7:30 pm in the Hornell High School Auditorium.

For more information visit <http://www.hornellhpg.com/events.html>



## *The Polar Express*

**December 23**

A free showing by Spotlight of Hornell at 7 pm.

## Santa and Mrs. Claus

**December 14**

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be coming to the Hornell Public Library from 10:30 am - 11 am. They will be there to visit and read with the children. It will be free to the public.



## Santa Land

Located at ProcAir on Main Street. Kids can meet and take a picture with Santa Claus.

**December 17**

Open from 6 pm - 8 pm

**December 19**

Open from 11 am - 3 pm

**December 22**

Open from 6 pm - 8 pm

## The YMCA's annual Christmas Concert

**December 18**

The concert will feature YMCA members and music students. All donations will benefit the Music & Arts program. The Concert will be held at 7 pm at the Christ Church Episcopal.





# Winter Sports Interviews

By  
Kylie Faulkner  
Copy Editor



Varsity A-A Winter sports coaches were interviewed to get their outlook on the upcoming season. This is what they had to say:

## What are your expectations for the upcoming regular season?

**Mr. Cook (Wrestling):** "My expectations are pretty high. I want to have a better, or equal, record to last year, as well as being county champions once again. While we lost some team members that were very talented, I am confident the team can still be in the top five at sectionals."

**Mr. Weller (Boy's Basketball):** "I want the boys to be competitive and finish at the top of the league. The team did not lose many starters, so we should have a pretty good team."

**Mrs. Turner (Girl's Basketball):** "I would like win more than half of our games."

**Mr. Bialecki (Skiing):** "I want the team to work hard and train hard in the pre-season to be ready for the upcoming race season."

**Mr. Flaitz (Swimming):** "I really want the team to work hard, find the events they like to swim and show steady improvement through the season."

## How do you plan to motivate the team?

**Mr. Cook:** "I want to motivate the members through hard work and commitment with the team. I also want to give them positive feedback."

**Mr. Weller:** "I want to get them to really work hard and I would really like the leaders to lead the team. I want the boys to have the same attitude they had with soccer-an attitude of not losing."

**Mrs. Turner:** "I want to teach them the basics and just have fun with them. I want to teach them to work together and support one another."

**Mr. Bialecki:** "I want to prepare them for the season, tell them what to expect, and also scare them just a little bit."

**Mr. Flaitz:** "I want to motivate the team by making them understand that in order to get better, you must work as hard as possible in practice with the occasional doughnut on Saturdays."

## What positive things do you think will happen with the team?

**Mr. Cook:** "I think we should have multiple sectional champs, a few qualifying for the Section V meet, and a few attending the state meet."

**Mr. Weller:** "I think they will play better and better every time they go out on the court. I am extremely happy with the defense on our team, but the offense needs to catch up with the defense skill. When they do great things will happen."

**Mrs. Turner:** "They are all very eager to learn and want to do better. The base units are working well, they are all working hard, and I hope for them all to stick with it."

**Mr. Bialecki:** "We have a very strong family concept on the team. We support one another even though we race individually, but score as a team."

**Mr. Flaitz:** "I believe some younger swimmers will find their place and step up and veterans will continue to improve."

# Buffalo Bills Midseason Report

By  
**Dylan Thayer**  
Marketing Manager

The Buffalo Bills are off to a great start. With new head coach Rex Ryan and new additions through the draft and free agency, the team is sitting at a 6-6 record hoping to get into the playoffs for the first time in over 15 years.

The team is currently third in the AFC East and eighth in the playoff picture, with a win over the Jets the team would be right back in the wild card slot. With only a few weeks left in the regular season, the Bills are in a good position, but getting some key wins will help punch their ticket into the playoffs.

In recent weeks, injuries occurred throughout the NFL. Some key players have been lost throughout the league. The key players that were lost on the Bills are as follows Defensive Tackle Kyle Williams, Wide Receiver Percy Harvin, and Safety Aaron Williams. By the end of the regular season they should have A. Williams back on the field practicing and playing in the last remaining games. Both Harvin and K. Williams have been placed on the injured reserve.

Additionally there is now a concern at the quarterback position. Tyrod Taylor hurt his shoulder in the Patriots game on November 23. He was hit near the middle of the fourth quarter; if Tyrod cannot suit up, backup Quarterback EJ Manuel would have to try to lead this team into the playoffs for the first time in over 15 years.

*Buffalo Bills New Additions*  
*Photos from buffalobills.com*

*Charles Clay*

*Lesean McCoy*

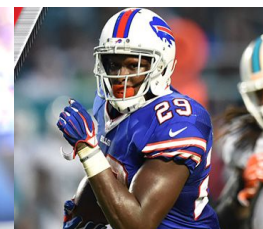
*Tyrod Taylor*



*Richie Incognito*



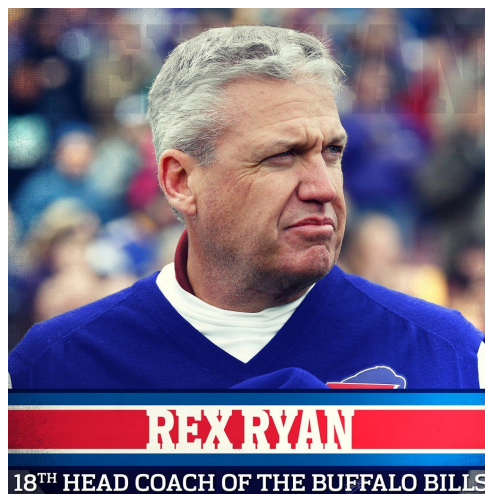
*Ronald Darby*



*Karlos Williams*



*John Miller*



*New Head Coach Rex Ryan*  
*Photo From buffalobills.com*

## AFC East Standings:

New England Patriots.....	10-2
New York Jets.....	7-5
Buffalo Bills.....	6-6
Miami Dolphins.....	5-7

## AFC Playoff Picture:

### Division Leaders:

East: New England Patriots....	10-2
North: Cincinnati Bengals.....	10-2
West: Denver Broncos.....	10-2
South: Indianapolis Colts.....	6-6

### Wild Card:

Kansas City Chiefs.....	7-5
New York Jets.....	7-5

### In the Hunt:

Pittsburgh Steelers.....	7-5
Buffalo Bills.....	6-6
Houston Texans.....	6-6
Oakland Raiders.....	5-7
Miami Dolphins.....	5-7
Jacksonville Jaguars.....	4-8
Baltimore Ravens.....	4-8
San Diego Chargers.....	3-9
Tennessee Titans.....	3-9







# Climate Change: Increasing Human Violence?

By  
**Hannah Henderson**  
Photo Editor

Is there a time when you notice an increase in crime rates? According to many scientists, researchers, and criminologists, there is evidence that show crime rates are related to climate.

According to Matthew Ranson, author of *Journal Environmental Economics and Management*, as temperatures increase, crime rates increase. Ranson based his reasoning off of a 30 year panel of monthly crime and weather data for 2,997 United States counties. Ranson estimated that “between 2010 and 2099, climate change will cause an additional 22,000 murders, 180,000 cases of rape, 1.2 million aggravated assaults, 260,000 robberies, 1.3 million burglaries, 2.2 million cases of larceny, and 580,000 cases of vehicle theft in the United States.”

Ranson states that when temperatures increase and weather becomes nicer, there are more opportunities for people to commit crimes. One theory that Ranson states is that, during the summer, people are more likely to leave their windows open during the day and night, and they are outside more often which allows them to become potential victims. His second theory is that “temperature has a direct effect on human aggression”. Ranson gives one of his frequently used examples to explain his concepts: “In laboratory studies, subjects



## Highest Crime Cities



Detroit, MI



Memphis, TN



Newark, NJ



Indianapolis, IN



Buffalo, NY



New Haven, CT

### Cities with the highest crimes.

Scientist believe these top six cities have the highest crime rates because of the larger climate changes. (Per 100K)

**Piktochart made by Hannah Henderson**

make more aggressive choices when they are in a hot room instead of a comfortable room.”

Studies have shown that global warming has begun to increase the amount of crimes, not only in the summer months, but also in the cooler months as well. Researchers believe that they have officially concluded that climate changes are related to human conflict and crime rates. Marshall Burke states in an article from the *New York Times*, “Whether their focus is on small-scale interpersonal aggression or large-scale political

instability, low-income or high-income societies, the year 10,000 B.C. or the present day, the overall conclusion is the same: episodes of extreme climate make people more violent toward one another.”

Many conclusions state that climate can ultimately shape many, if not all, social interactions. Scientists that are learning about and developing more theories on global warming have concluded that future children will be growing up in an “increasingly hot and angry planet.”



By  
Bailey Comer  
Copy Editor

# Presidential Underdogs



Democratic

Republican

MARTIN  
O'MALLEY

MIKE  
HUCKABEE

Party

Views  
on...

Party

**Education:** Against the education vouchers for both private and public schools.

**Health Care:** "Health Care is a right not a privilege" and wants to make it available to all families. He understands that the federal government should be involved with these specific situations.

**Immigration:** O'Malley believes immigrants to be known as "new Americans," but also believes that there should be tougher enforcement on illegal immigrants. He signed a law that allows undocumented children of immigrants to eligible for in-state tuition and undocumented immigrants eligible for in-state college tuition.

**Minimum Wage:** O'Malley is very supportive of the minimum wage increase.

**Education:** Against the government-supported vouchers to send children to public, private, and religious schools

**Health Care:** Supports the idea of the government ensuring the citizens health care, insurance reforms, and state funded care.

**Immigration:** Believes "something should be done to help illegal immigrants become legal in America." He also believes that the children should not have to suffer for whatever illegal action his/her parent committed.

**Minimum Wage:** Huckabee is all for the \$1.10 raise in the paychecks of the American people who are working.



Photo of Martin O'Malley from thebeastdaily.com



Photo of Mike Huckabee from thinkprogress.org



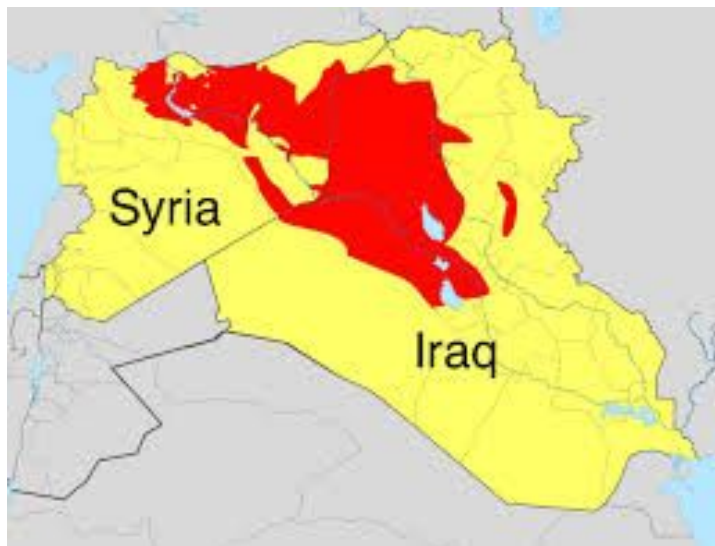


# The War on ISIS Continues

By  
**Matthew Mayes**  
Editor in Chief Lite

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is a radical, anti-West militant group. Originally an offshoot of Al Qaeda, ISIS justifies its actions using an extremely violent interpretation of Islamic writing which the vast majority of the Muslim community has denounced. ISIS aims to create an ever expanding country ruled under Sharia law. These are rules and laws based entirely on ancient Islamic traditions and are interpreted in various ways. ISIS uses them to justify a theocracy style government, much like early American settlements, and enforces them with extremely violent and public punishments. They control a few key cities in Iraq and Syria, along with thousands of miles of countryside.

These captions explore what steps are being taken towards containing and defeating the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.



**Occupied Territory** Area under ISIS control in Iraq and Syria. Many of these areas are currently contested areas and it is debatable who really controls them. *Photo from Vox.com*



**International Reactions** Many countries have contributed to the airstrikes. *Photo from guprogressive.com*



**Rebellion from Within** A group of protesters in Sudan. *Photo from demotix.com*

Various countries including Russia, the U.S., and France, have used continuous airstrikes to target high priority targets, and sites like ISIS's capital city Raqqa in Syria. Many analysts believe that this will not be enough to contain ISIS forces on the ground.

Any resistance by people under ISIS rule is met with extreme consequences. Protesters last June were shot at as they approached an ISIS headquarters in Syria, killing seven. Several other protests show that the populations under ISIS control are attempting to resist their rule but have met cruel punishments. Nonetheless, people under ISIS control continue to resist.



#OpParis  
@opparisofficial



Follow

We report that more than 5500 Twitter account of #ISIS are now #down! #OpParis #Anonymous #ExpectUs

RETWEETS

3,662

LIKES

3,603



1:46 AM - 17 Nov 2015



**Taking control** The official twitter account of the hacker group Anonymous announces its actions after the Paris attacks. *Image from Activistpost.com*

A key part of ISIS's recruitment involves its online presence. The hacker group "Anonymous" took down over 5,500 pro-ISIS twitter accounts. The group plans to continue hacking other sources of ISIS's online presence.



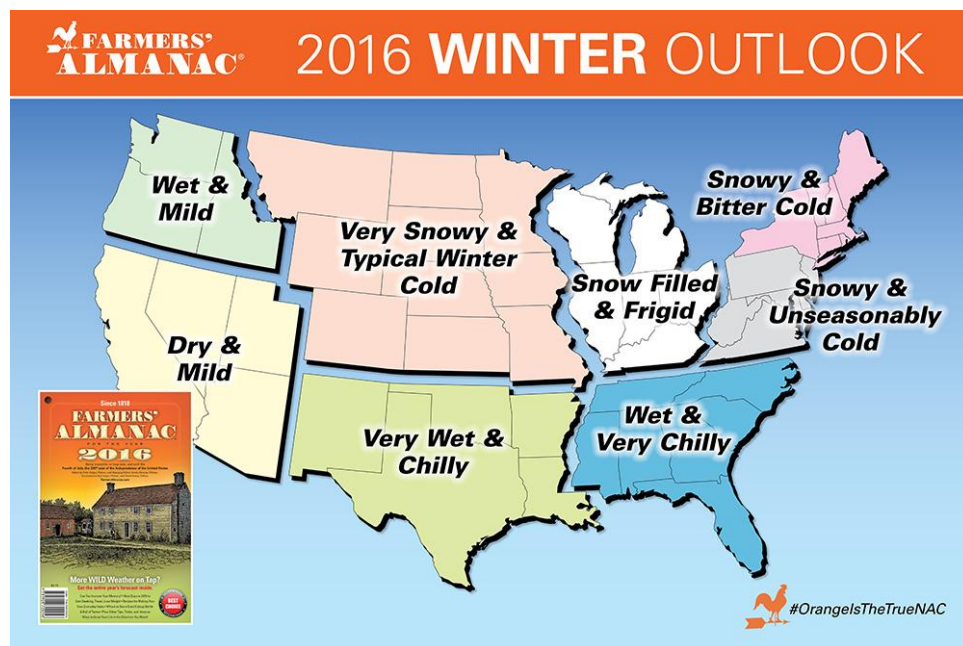
# 2015-2016 Winter Outlook

By  
**Gracen VanDyke**  
Copy Editor

“Will the 2015-2016 winter be as cold, and snowy as last year’s?” This is the question being asked by people across the nation in anticipation of the winter season. According to the Farmers’ Almanac, winter this year looks as if it will be a repeat of last winter.

Winter will be cold again across the nation, with below normal temperatures, for most of the Atlantic seaboard and in the Ohio Valley, Great Lakes, Pacific Northwest, and southwestern states. However, there will be above-normal temperatures in Florida and Maine, from the Gulf coast into the Heartland, and in the Rockies states.

Snow fall will be above normal in most of the Northeast and the Ohio Valley, northern Plains, and Pacific Northwest, but below normal in most other areas. States from the Gulf of Mexico into Heartland will have below normal precipitation. Farmer’s Almanac states that they expect above-normal rainfall from the mid-Atlantic into the Southeast, and from the Texas Panhandle into Montana. Most other areas should have below-normal precipitation levels.



The outlook on 2015-2016 winter *Will it be worse than last year for us?*

*Photo from farmersalmanac.com*

For our specific region, the coldest periods of winter will be in December and into early January. The snowiest periods will be in late November, December, mid-January and into early February. In December, the average temperature is expected to be 31 degrees, with precipitation nearing 2.5 inches. Farmers’ Almanac predicts that the days between the 1st-3rd will have rain and snow showers, and 4-8 snowstorms, with flurries. The 9th-13th will have snow showers and cold, while the 14th-22nd lake effect snows, and snow there will showers. It is

predicted there will be flurries from December 23rd-26th, but will be sunny and cold. To end December there will be snowstorms, and bitter cold. January is shown to have an average temperature of 24 degrees, which is three degrees lower than usual, and 2 inches of precipitation, which is 0.5 inches below average. January is going to bring us lake effect snow, flurries, freezing rain, and bitter cold temperatures.

Gear up, get your snow blowers, shovels, and snow boots, to prepare yourselves for winter!





By  
**Priya Rao**  
Copy Editor

# Hands *Off* the Wheel



Would you trust a computer to drive you around? Self-driving cars use sensors and complex algorithms to detect objects as far as two football fields away in all directions. Specifically, cameras, lasers, point radar, and GPS are all used to monitor the world around the car. Self-driving electric cars may seem like they belong in science fiction, but, in actuality, most of the technology already exists. Many cars are already equipped with features in the first stage of automatic driving such as self-parking and autonomous emergency braking. In these self driving cars, there are no steering wheels, just a start and an emergency button.

Do people even want to give up their cherished wheels? For some, driving a car represents freedom. However, for those who do not have, or lost, the ability to drive, such as the disabled or the visually impaired, this technology could allow for newfound independence. In addition, an alarming number of accidents result from distracted driving. According to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, 94 percent of accidents in the United States are a result of human error. By design, self-driving cars operate much more defensively than normal drivers. Thus, self-driving cars could take a lot of danger out of driving because computers inherently cannot be distracted.

However, the possibility of such automatic cars poses significant drawbacks. First and foremost, the software used to program the cars may be vulnerable to hackers.

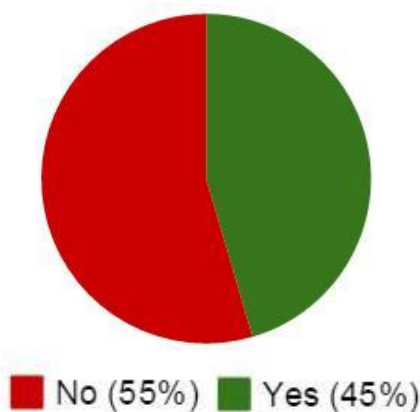


**Self-Driving Cars** *The possible future of automobiles* Photo from mototrend.com

In addition, widespread implementation of the technology could eliminate many jobs in the transportation sector. Other possible negative aspects include a loss of accident accountability, and the overdependence on the technology which could lead to a loss of skills, which would be detrimental in the event of a glitch.

However, the purpose of these autonomous cars are not to replace the cars parked at home, but rather to serve as replacement taxis. Moreover, the cars are still in the development stage, as the cars can only reach a maximum speed of 25 mph. Nevertheless, the idea proves to be a very interesting prospect.

## Would You Trust a Self-Driving Car?



*The information in the chart above was obtained from a survey of Alfred-Almond students.*

### Reactions from Alfred-Almond Students

"It would be dangerous if a virus got in."

"Time saver and fewer accidents."

"It is a high risk on the road."

"Impossible."



# The Three Parts of Health

By  
**Paige Schmidt**  
Staff Writer

When people talk about health they usually just think about exercise and a nutritious diet. However social and mental/emotional states are other factors when talking about health.

The Health Triangle shows the social, physical, and mental/emotional aspects of health. Every part of the triangle has to be balanced in order to live a truly healthy lifestyle.

When talking about the social part of the triangle, it is important to have a stable social life. Having a sense of belonging to a group, like friends and family, is good for your health. When a person doesn't have a sense of belonging (social isolation), they can become depressed, upset with themselves, or lonely. This ties into the mental/emotional side of the triangle.

The mental/emotional side of the triangle is how a person feels about themselves and the people around them, and how one deals with daily stress. A healthy mental/emotional state is when a person feels great about themselves and has a positive attitude towards life. Other examples of a strong and stable mental health is when the person is able to relate to others, enjoy learning, learn from their



**Health Triangle**

The image above shows the three sides of the health triangle.  
*Photo from northdelaware.happeningmag.com*

mistakes, and accept responsibility. If a person does not have healthy mental/emotional wellbeing, not only does it affect them mentally, it could also affect them physically. They could stop caring about themselves, become depressed, and let their physical health go.

The last part of the health triangle is physical health. This side deals with a person's sleeping and eating habits, as well as the amount of exercise they get. Physical health also concerns the body's condition and well being. Your physical health not only interacts with the mental/emotional side, it also interacts with your social health.

Every single side is important and needs to be considered. If one side becomes unbalanced, the other two sides are also out of balance. To prevent that from happening, check yourself once in awhile. Are you taking care of every aspect of your health, or is one side unbalanced? To live a truly healthy and balanced life, all of the sides of the health triangle have to be in order and taken care of. Good decision making and healthy choices will help increase overall health. A healthy life is a happy life! For more information about the health triangle visit: <http://www.healthtriangle.org/>





# STAR WARS EPISODE VII

FLAMINGTEXT.COM

By  
**Caitlin Cook**  
Copy Editor

The wait is finally over, Sci-Fi fans! The first Star Wars movie to be created since 2005 will be released into theaters on December 18, 2015. *Star Wars Episode VII*, more commonly referred to as *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, is part of the world famous nine episode series that has accrued over \$30 billion since its introduction to the big screen in 1977.

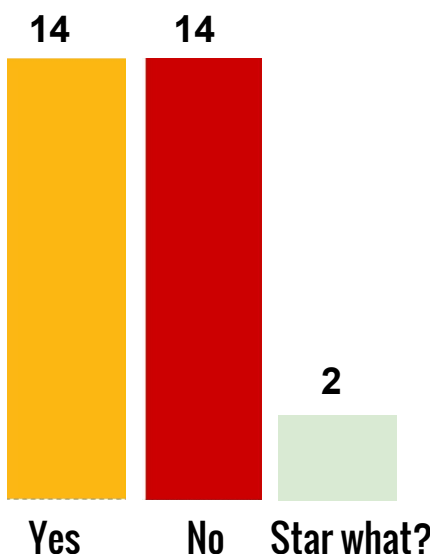
A majority of the plot of this movie has deliberately been kept a mystery. However, it has been revealed that this part of the saga takes place three decades after the Battle of Endor, while the Empire is recovering from the devastations of war portrayed in *Episode VI: Return of the Jedi*.

Famous characters such as Han Solo, played by Harrison Ford, and Luke Skywalker, played by Mark Hamill, will return to their roles on the big screen. Newcomers John Boyega and actress Lupita Nyong'o will join an extremely seasoned cast, playing Finn and Maz Kanata, respectively, in the PG-13 flick.

Predictions about the outcome of this movie are mixed. However, the true quality of the movie will be determined on December 18. Buy your tickets today!

## Do YOU plan on watching *Star Wars: the Force Awakens*?

Information compiled from a survey of 30 Alfred-Almond students.



***"It's exciting to see old movies come back as something new!"***

-anonymous student

***"There're going to be a lot of different characters, so how will it turn out?"***

-anonymous student

***"I'm excited to see how they use special effects in the movie."***

-anonymous teacher



Movie poster for *Star Wars Episode VII*

Photo from [starwars.com](http://starwars.com)

### December Showtimes at Hornell's Spotlight Theatre:

Thurs 17: 7:00pm & 10:00pm  
Fri 18: 12:45pm, 3:30, 6:30 & 9:25pm  
Sat 19: 12:45pm, 3:30, 6:30 & 9:25pm  
Sun 20: 1:00pm, 4:00pm & 7:00pm  
Mon 21: 12:30pm, 4:00pm & 7:00pm  
Tues 22: 12:30pm, 4:00pm & 7:00pm  
Wed 23: 12:30pm & 4:30pm  
Thurs 24: 12:30pm, 4:00pm & 7:00pm



By  
**Tayler Fox**  
Editor in Chief

# MWoF



Meat Wagon o' Fun. What pops into your head when you hear that? Maybe a meaty horse drawn carriage bouncing down the street. Now shake that thought away and imagine a small student gaming community. That is MWoF.

MWoF was created by Joshua Carstens and his cousins Jeanne and Andrew. The name MWoF (Meat Wagon o' Fun) was created by Jeanne and Andrew's father. It originally began as a Minecraft server, and grew into a skype group, steam group, gaming group, a label for producing videos and music releases, and eventually the MWoF webpage. However, it is mainly a skype and PC gaming group.

Even though its focus is on gaming, the members of MWoF learn a lot of other things. By being a part of the group, the members have learned about friendship, teamwork, communication skills, and strategy, all within the main game they play, *Counter Strike: Global Offensive* (CS:GO). Some of their top tier players are Logan, Noah, Josh, and Andrew.

The overall mood of the group is very relaxed. One member, Joshua Carstens, said his favorite part is the "sense of humor" within the group. Two others, Abby Hendee and Joey Miletti agreed, adding that they have built many strong friendships within the group.

Anyone can join MWoF. You don't even have to be a gamer. They are even open to new people joining their Skype group just to hang out and have fun. If you do want to join their gaming group, they recommend certain equipment on their webpage, but it isn't necessary. If you simply want to support them, or walk around in some "awesome merch," they have a link on their webpage to a merchandise shop.

They usually get together and play on Fridays and Saturdays, "since we're all high school students, and homework and studying are important." They do get on Skype throughout the week to hang out and goof around when they don't have work to do. They even have small parties to

hang out over the summer and other times outside of school.

They are hopeful to have a competitive team set up for League of Legends in the near future, adding to their already enormous empire.

## YouTube Channels:

Meat Wagon o' Fun  
pxrspectiv  
Togi4me  
AlfredRail  
JayDee  
oBdurate

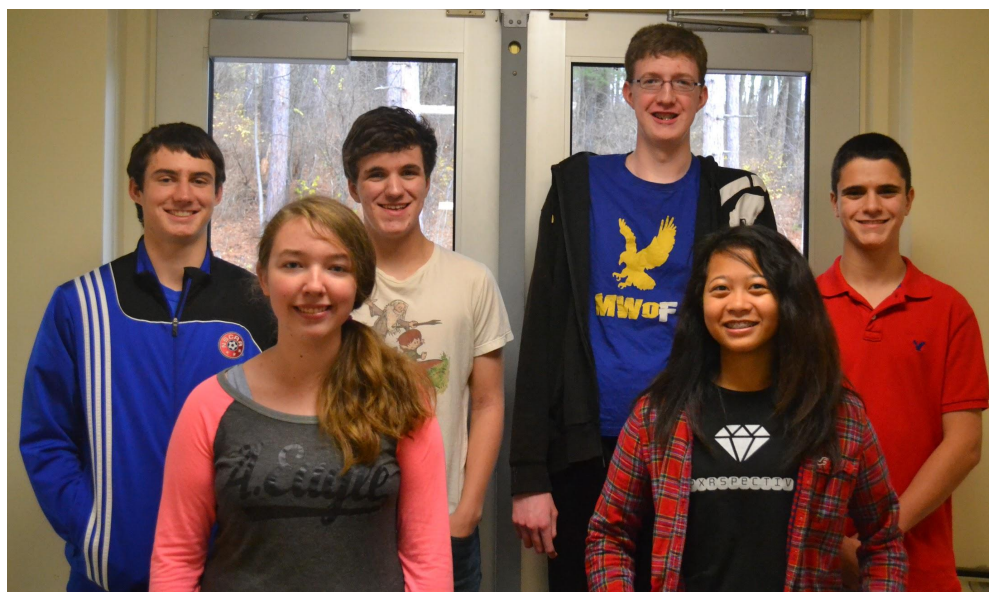


## Website:

<http://www.mwof.co/>

## Steam Account Site:

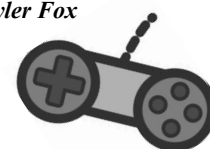
<http://steamcommunity.com/groups/MWoF>



**MWoF Crew** Pictured above, left to right, Noah, Jessie, Alex, Joshua, Abby, and Joey. These are just a few of the many MWoF members. Photo Courtesy of Tayler Fox



To join or support MWoF, just talk to them!  
They promise they do not bite!







# The Advice Corner!

By  
**Levi Bayus**  
Photo Editor

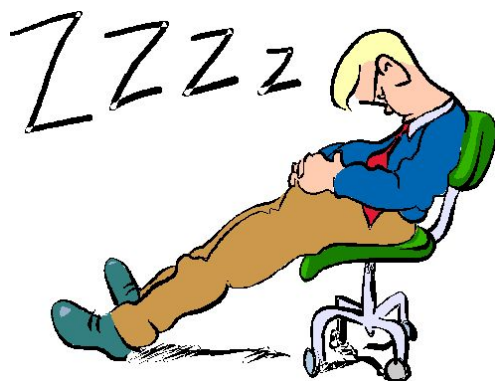
Dear Observer Staff,

How many hours of sleep do you recommend per night in order to be successful?

-Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

To understand the proper amount of sleep you need, you first need to understand sleep. Many people don't get enough sleep, either because there isn't enough time in the day or they think there are more important things to do. Just like exercise and nutrition, sleep is essential for good health and happiness. The quality of sleep that you get affects your life. Without the proper quality of sleep you won't be able to work, learn, or create at your full potential. Sleep affects your mental sharpness, productivity, emotional balance, creativity, physical stamina, and even your weight. Sleeping keeps your body running in top condition and helps you get prepared for the day ahead. Researchers at the University of California say that people the age of 5 to 12 should be getting 10 to 11 hours of sleep per night, and people in ages 12 to 18 should be getting 8.5 to 10 hours a night. Adults (18+) should be getting 7.5 to 9 hours of sleep per night. People who follow these recommended hours will be more productive, energetic, and successful throughout the day.



**Sleep Deprivation** *Catching some zzz. Photo from clipart.com*



**College** *It's right around the corner. Photo from clipartpanda.com*

Sincerely,  
Observer Staff

Dear Observer Staff,

Is it possible to get a head start prior to applying for college?

-Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

There are many ways to get a head start prior to applying to college. First and foremost, know what you want to do. Look ahead; it's important to know what you want to get out of your education. Once you know, or at least have an idea, of what you want to do, start looking for colleges with your preferred major. It's very easy to find your preferred college at [collegeboard.com](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search?navid=gh-cs). After finding the colleges that interest you, you should try and visit as many as possible. Knowing as much as possible about your potential major and potential college will help with the application process.

College Board Page:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search?navid=gh-cs>

Sincerely,  
Observer Staff



December  
Seniors

# Senior Profiles

By  
Elizabeth Allen  
Staff Writer



BROOKE JEFFERDS

**What are your plans after graduation?**

*Attend college in NYC and major in International Business.*

**What do you do in your free time? Do you have any talents/hobbies?**

*Dance, adventure, and travel.*

**Do you have any “parting words” for the underclassmen?**

*Try your best! What you learn now can help you in your future.*

**Do you hang your toilet paper over or under?**

*Strictly over.*



JESSE CROSBY

**What are your plans after graduation?**

*Hopefully to go to Brown University to study Political Sciences and International Relations.*

**What do you do in your free time? Do you have any talents/hobbies?**

*Read, travel, and hike.*

**Do you have any “parting words” for the underclassmen?**

*Even if you feel like you are nothing but one drop in a limitless ocean, what is an ocean but a multitude of drops?*

**Do you hang your toilet paper over or under?**

*Over.*



DARNELL WATSON

**What are your plans after graduation?**

*To go to college at Alfred State for their Machine Tool Technology program.*

**What do you do in your free time? Do you have any talents/hobbies?**

*Explore and go to my friend's house.*

**Do you have any “parting words” for the underclassmen?**

*Listen to your seniors, they are usually right. Also, know the high school system better.*

**Do you hang your toilet paper over or under?**

*Over.*



TAYLER FOX

**What are your plans after graduation?**

*To go to RIT and major in Biomedical Engineering.*

**What do you do in your free time? Do you have any talents/hobbies?**

*I like to paint murals in my room or go hiking.*

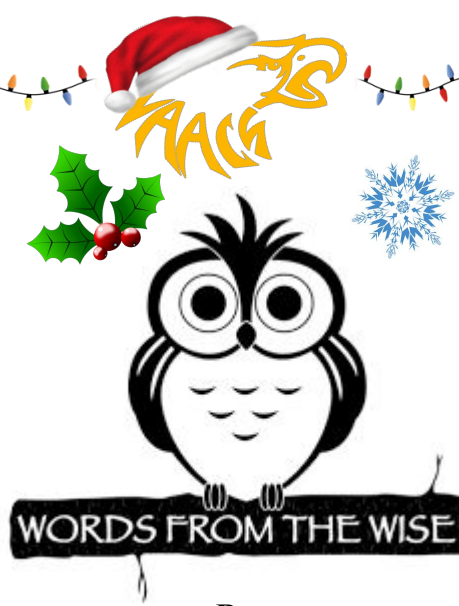
**Do you have any “parting words” for the underclassmen?**

*Focus on your grades because every year counts, but be sure to fit in time for fun and friends.*

**Do you hang your toilet paper over or under?**

*Over, of course.*





By

**Brooke Jefferds**

Public Relations Manager

**"I'm not afraid to learn with the students  
and I do enjoy learning from them"**

Mrs. Williams has been sharing her wisdom at Alfred-Almond for 31 years in the computer department.

**Q:** Who inspired you in your search for your current career?

**A:** *Jane Jamison. She was a high school geometry and pre-calc teacher. An inspiration to all computer programmers, she was the founder of the Hornell Computer Program in 1979. She was enthusiastic, cared for students, and held a true love for math. She inspired Mrs. Williams. At first, Mrs. Williams wanted to teach math. Math teachers were supposed to be familiar with computer programming, so she minored in Computer Science. At first she didn't enjoy her collegiate level classes, but her love grew. Starting with a rough patch, she gained help from administration and the kid's input and succeeded.*

**Q:** What is your most successful teaching strategy?

**A:** *Since technology changes so much, Mrs. Williams believes in giving just enough of an introduction to get the kids comfortable enough to explore themselves. She often finds that when students explore for themselves, they find out new tools and can share with the class.*

**Q:** What aspect leaves you most satisfied with your job?

**A:** *Mrs. Williams loves to see students helping fellow classmates, and when kids show their excitement when they create a program and gain enthusiasm showing family and friends their unique invention. "I love when students take pride in their work."*

**"A Man can be destroyed but not defeated"**  
**~Hemingway**

Mr. Brady has been educating students in the English Department for 31 years. His expertise doesn't end there; he is the Driver's Ed instructor, coach to boys and girls tennis as well as occasionally coaching basketball.

**Q:** What is your most successful teaching strategy?

**A:** *"Make the subject matter as interesting as possible to stimulate thoughts/discussion."*

**Q:** Who inspired you?

**A:** *"Mel Beinstein. [He was my] former professor".*

**Q:** When you were younger what did you want to be?

**A:** *Even though Mr. Brady has always been an avid reader of the classics, he originally wanted to be a film critic.*

**Q:** What is your happiest teaching memory?

**A:** *"Students getting all 4's and 5's on their AP Lit test."*

**Q:** What is your favorite short story?

**A:** *"Young Goodman Brown" by Nathaniel Hawthorne*

**Q:** What job aspect leaves you most satisfied?

**A:** *"When students tell me that they learned a lot in my class."*





### **"When a Student Has a Desire, They Can Overcome Anything"**

Ms. Allen has been a valuable addition to the Alfred- Almond staff for the past 30 years. Her hard work and dedication has been, and will continue to be, recognized as her involvement continues.

**Q:** What is your most successful teaching strategy?

**A:** *"Give Respect and Get Respect." When teachers respect students, the students will respect the teacher as well. It's a mutual connection.*

**Q:** Who inspired you?

**A:** *Her favorite high school teacher Leslie Grey. He was Ms. Allen's honors English teacher and had a major impact on her life.*

**Q:** Have you always wanted to be a teacher?

**A:** *Ms. Allen wanted to be an investigative journalist. She associated herself with Washington journalists Woodward and Bernstein. A teaching opportunity fell into Ms. Allen's grasp and she took it. If she could go back in time, she would've taken an opportunity to pursue her dreams as an investigative journalist but has no regrets.*

**Q:** What's your favorite work story?

**A:** *When Ms. Allen was working with Mr. Goho one day, Mr. Goho and Ms. Allen were hooking up tapes for the students to listen to for their next class. They started listening to the tapes and got caught up in the moment. Jamming out to the music, involving minor dance moves, they were caught by Mr. Nicol who walked in. The two felt as if they were kids back in high school.*

**Q:** What aspect of teaching leaves you most satisfied?

**A:** *"So many students, so many years." Ms. Allen loves when kids simply say "Thanks, Mrs. Allen!" She feels appreciated for her long hours of work and planning. Graduation day is a highlight for Ms. Allen. She gets to see the students she has aided throughout the years go out into the real world and accomplish their dreams.*

### **"The Readiness Is All"**

**~Shakespeare**

Mr. Holmok has given Alfred-Almond 33 years of experience after three years at another school. He originally taught physical education and is starting his first year as Alfred-Almond's new Athletic Director (A. D.).

**Q:** What is your most successful teaching strategy?

**A:** *"[One] must develop a relationship first."*

**Q:** What brought you to Alfred-Almond?

**A:** *"My previous Superintendent got the job here at A-A in the early 80's, and when Mr. Moore retired, I applied and was hired. I had worked at Windham Ashland Jewett as A.D. and coached soccer, basketball, and baseball. I always wanted to be involved with sports/athletics so it was a perfect fit."*

**Q:** What aspect leaves you the most satisfied on the job?

**A:** *"Watching a student master a skill you have helped them work on. Also, I get to watch my children grow. Not many parents see their children on the job but I have a special connection."*







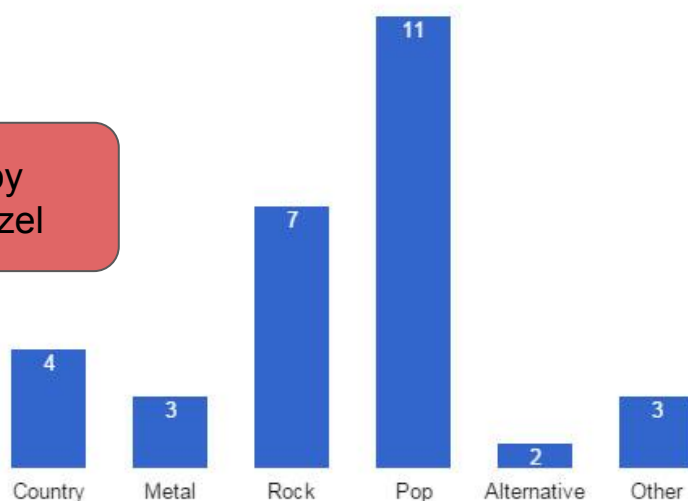
By  
**Tyler Vecchio**  
Staff Writer

# Types of Music



Many people have different preferences with music. There are several genres of music such as metal, country, rap, pop, rock and more. Alfred-Almond students were surveyed on what music they listen to and what they like.

Favorite Types of Music at Alfred-Almond



**What is the last song you listened to?**

*Hello by Adele*

*Let it Go by Idina Menzel*

*Roar by Katy Perry*

*Thunderstruck by AC/DC*

## Acknowledgements

### Madge Chroniger & Katlyn Guild

"Madge and Katlyn selflessly give up their study hall time to help organize the costumes and props in their new home. Thank you, Madge and Katlyn!"

-From Miss Karr and the Performing Arts Department at AACCS

### Mrs. Kress

"Mrs. Kress is not just a teacher, she is also a friend. She has been there for me and countless other students for things such as classwork, college application essays, and even personal problems outside of school. She is simply a wonderful and supportive human being."

-Tayler Fox

### Emelia Enke

"She always makes everyone laugh, and can answer any question the teacher puts before her."

-From Kaitlyn Cook, Annie Lloyd, Morgan Giglio, Katlyn Guild, Noah Briglin, Payten Cooper, and Katy Dixon

### Brady and Noah Holmok

"They never fail to pick up that 4K at any given opportunity. I don't know how they can possibly be so good at video games. League, Counter-Strike, it doesn't matter."

-Josh Carstens

### Mrs. Bain-Lucey & Mrs. Decker

"For going above and beyond for students."

-Grateful Parent

### Dylan Thayer

"I acknowledge myself for being soda free for an entire month."

-Dylan Thayer

### Colton Cook

"Colton because he is my brother and I love him."

-Lily Cook

### Sydney Heinig, Kayla Snyder, Shelby Moore, and Alean Yezarski

"Thank you for the lovely Christmas tree decorating. Great job!"

-K. Donius



Great accomplishment -  
keep up the great work!  
Photo courtesy of Joe  
Kenyon



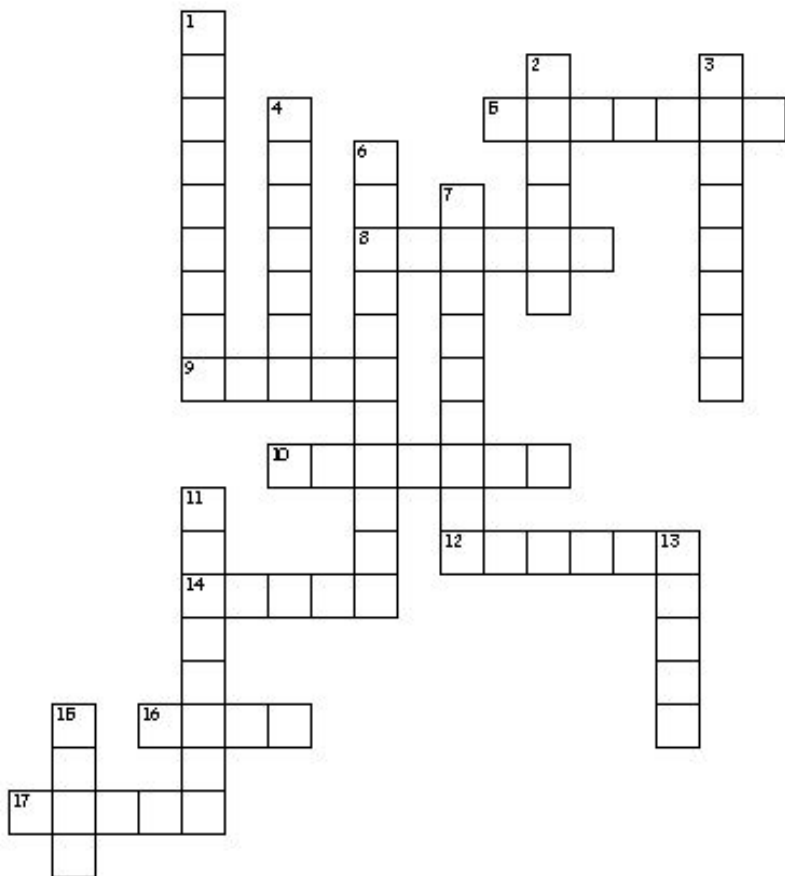
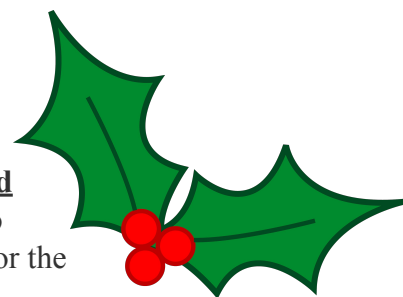
If you wish to acknowledge anyone, go to this link:

<http://goo.gl/forms/deFL9sO5Sy>



# Christmas Puzzles!

By  
**Dylan Dirlam**  
Technology Advisor



## Christmas Crossword

Use the clues below to determine the words for the puzzle to the left!

### **Across**

5. These are lit up during the holidays.
8. Sung during the holidays.
9. Delivers presents.
10. The entrance to your house for Santa.
12. Helps Santa travel around the world.
14. They help Santa to make the presents.
16. Cold stuff that falls from the skies.
17. Often rung during the holidays.

### **Down**

1. Hung from the mantle of a fireplace.
2. Spend time with this during the holidays.
3. They lead Santa's sleigh.
4. Frosty the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Hung up during the holidays to celebrate.
7. Hung from the Christmas tree.
11. Often opened on Christmas morning.
13. A plant often hung during the holidays.
15. Put up as a decoration in your house.

## Christmas Word Find

Use the words from the crossword puzzle and find them in the word find below!

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

