

# THE OBSERVER

News We're All a Part Of

## HOLIDAY EDITION

CHRISTMAS RECIPES  
WINTER SPORTS INFO  
NEW SCHOOL STAFF  
CHRISTMAS MUSIC

AND

'TIS THE SKI-SON



December 2017  
Vol. 7 Issue 2



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## Mission & Vision

### News We're All a Part Of

It is our mission as the Alfred-Almond *Observer* to provide truthful, unbiased, and accurate information to the student body. Our goal is to deliver relevant stories focused on both informing and entertaining the Alfred-Almond community. We strive to promote a positive school climate and will use the *Observer* as a way to give all voices at Alfred-Almond a platform.

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## Dear Readers,

The entire *Observer* staff would like to welcome you to the 2017 December issue filled with holiday amusement and seasonal news. Our staff has worked tirelessly like the elves at the North Pole under the guidance of our version of Santa, Ms. Backer, to provide you with the most interesting and relevant articles this holiday season.

We have made our goal to give the gift of entertainment and joy to every reader as an early present to all. We hope as you open up to each new page you feel the holiday spirit seep into your hearts and then spread to others in your life. We challenge you to allow yourself to get as excited as a kid on Christmas morning as you read.

As fellow students of AACS, we too find it hard not get exhilarated by the season and invite you to join us in preparing for the upcoming December events. We hope you have as much fun reading it as we have had writing and editing this epitome of holiday celebration.

*Morgan Griglio*



# Upcoming Events

## Sports

### Skiing (all events are at SWAIN)

Jan 3 - MEET, 5:30  
Jan 6 - MEET, 10AM  
Jan 10 - MEET, 5:30  
Jan 13 - MEET, 10AM/1:00  
Jan 17 - MEET, 5:30  
Jan 20 - MEET, 10AM/1:00  
Jan 24 - MEET, 5:30  
Jan 27 - MEET, 10AM/1:00  
Feb 6-7 - SECTIONALS, 10AM/1:00

### Modified Wrestling (Home Matches)

Jan 29 - MEET, 5:45

### Varsity Wrestling (Home Matches)

Dec 14 - Addison, 6:15  
Jan 11 - Avoca, 6:15  
Jan 25- Campbell-Savona, 6:15

### Swimming (Home Meets)

Dec 12 - Canisteo Greenwood, 5:30  
Dec 19 - Addison, 5:30  
Jan 11 - Campbell Savona, 5:30  
Jan 18 - Genesee Valley, 5:30

### Girls' Modified Basketball (Home Games)

Dec 9 - Campbell Savona, 11:15 AM  
Dec 11 - Prattsburgh, 7:15  
Jan 13 - Addison, 11:15 AM  
Jan 20 - Arkport, 11:15 AM  
Jan 29 - Avoca, 7:15

### Girls' JV/Varsity Basketball (Home Games)

Dec 8 - Avoca, 7:15/5:45  
Dec 15 - Canisteo Greenwood, 7:15/5:45  
Jan 12 - Bradford, 7:15/5:45  
Jan 24 - Arkport, 7:15/5:45  
Jan 26 - Genesee Valley, 7:15/5:45

### Boys' Modified Basketball (Home Games)

Dec 9 - Campbell Savona, 10AM  
Dec 11 - Prattsburgh, 5:45  
Jan 13 - Addison, 10AM  
Jan 20 - Arkport, 10AM  
Jan 29 - Avoca, 5:45

### Boys' JV/Varsity Basketball (Home Games)

Dec 6 - Prattsburgh, 7:15/5:45  
Dec 12 - JT, 7:15/5:45  
Jan 3 - Whitesville, 7:15/5:45  
Jan 5 - Candor, 7:15/5:45  
Jan 9 - Hammondsport, 7:15/5:45  
Jan 17 - Campbell Savona, 7:15/5:45  
Jan 19 - Addison, 7:15/5:45

## Press Start to Read

## Holidays

December 6: Saint Nicholas Day  
December 12: Fiesta of Our Lady of  
Guadalupe  
December 13: St. Lucia Day  
December 12-20: Hanukkah  
December 25: Christmas Day  
January 6: Three Kings Day/Epiphany  
December 26: Boxing Day  
December 26-January 1: Kwanzaa  
December 31: Omisoka  
December 21: Yule  
December 17: Saturnalia

## Music

Dec. 12-13: Musical  
Tryouts  
Dec. 14: Musical  
Callbacks  
Dec. 18: Elementary  
Band and Chorus  
Concert, 7:00 PM  
Dec. 19: Jr./Sr. High  
Chorus Concert,  
7:00 PM  
Dec. 20: Jr./Sr. High  
Band & Jazz Band  
Concert, 7:00 PM

## Other

Dec. 4-7: Scholastic  
Book fair  
Dec. 7: Elementary Story  
Night, 6-7 PM  
Dec. 11: NHS Blood  
Drive  
Dec. 15: Five- Week  
Reports Issued  
Dec. 25-29: Holiday  
Recess



HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS  
FROM THE  
OBSERVER  
STAFF



# Who is it?

By: Morgan Giglio  
Copy Editor

We see the faces of our peers, teachers and faculty of Alfred-Almond Central School daily, but do we really know anything behind the smiles on their friendly faces? Among these familiar staff members, one prominent figure in the school has taken the time to allow us a look into both their professional and personal life. While they spend a majority of their time within the walls of AA, they also have many hobbies and interests outside of school, as well as friends and family they love staying close with. With so much going on, it's no wonder that they can always be found running from place to place, or hiding away to try and complete the paperwork that can pile up quickly in their chosen profession. Even with their busy schedule I had the privilege to sit down with this individual for an interview, and now I challenge the reader to figure out **who is on the other end of this Q and A.**

**Q:** What are three interesting facts about you?  
**A:** I love fishing! I own a tipi. I was a hockey cheerleader in high school!

**Q:** What skill would you like to master?  
**A:** My fly-fishing!

**Q:** If you didn't have to sleep, what would you do with the extra time?  
**A:** Read or be outside hiking, walking.

**Q:** Are you usually early or late? Why?  
**A:** Early!! I have to be ready and prepared. I inherited it from my dad.

**Q:** What's the best way to start the day?  
**A:** Waking up in my home with my family and knowing I have the gift of another day and coffee!!

**Q:** What are some small things that make your day better?  
**A:** Hellos, smiles from people... laughter always helps. My dogs make life better. Hearing the voices of my kids on the way home from work and eating dinner with my husband. Driving down the dirt roads on my way home; looking up at the sky each morning.

**Q:** What are you looking forward to in the coming months?  
**A:** Thanksgiving and Christmas! I love time with family. I will have all of my kids home. I have a new grandchild coming in April. I love winter sports to watch here and hope to

get outside for some cross-country skiing this winter.

**Q:** Where did you go to high school?  
**A:** West Irondequoit High School in Rochester.

**Q:** Did you go to college, and if so where?  
**A:** I went to Geneseo for my Undergraduate, Alfred University for my Masters, and Brockport for my Administrative degree.

**Q:** When did you meet your husband?  
**A:** When I was in college in 1979.

**Q:** How many children do you have?  
**A:** We have four children.

**Q:** What is the most heartwarming thing you've ever seen?  
**A:** The birth of a child, especially mine.

**Q:** Why did you decide to do the work you are doing now?  
**A:** I knew I wanted to be in education when I was in 7th grade. I was volunteering at the Al Sigl Center in Rochester every Saturday morning and loved working with kids.

**Q:** What your favorite part about your job?  
**A:** Interacting with students and seeing what goes on in the classrooms. The best is seeing students meet their goals and graduate.

**Q:** What jobs did you have prior to this one?  
**A:** I have always worked since I was 16 years old. I sold shoes, painted, worked in group homes, taught in Migrant Camps, taught infants in homes. I have taught children from ages 6 months to adults in many different settings. I have waitressed and cleaned offices and houses while in college.

**Q:** What is a normal day in your job like?  
**A:** There are very few "normal" days, but it is a blend of observing in classrooms, attending meetings, meeting with students, parents, counselors. After school includes meetings, attending sports and other events and doing paperwork in early and later parts of my day.

**Q:** What takes up too much of your time?  
**A:** Paperwork, probably.

**Q:** If all jobs had the same pay and hours, what job would you like to have?  
**A:** Teacher, principal; something with kids! I would not really change it.

**Q:** Are you on any committees?  
**A:** I am part of the Committee for Special Education and School Improvement Committee

**Q:** How do you relax after a hard day of work?  
**A:** I tend to take walks or read.

**Q:** What would you say your biggest accomplishments are?  
**A:** My biggest accomplishments include being a parent, going to college and taking on roles that forced me to face my shyness and being an introvert.

**Q:** If you could make one rule that everyone had to follow, what rule would you make?  
**A:** Be kind to all you meet.



Who's behind door #1? Find out which staff member it is on page 26.  
Photo courtesy of Morgan Giglio



# Student Teacher Feature



By Abigail Hendee, Editor in Chief

New faces have been appearing throughout the school since September. In addition to the new hires to Alfred-Almond, there is a new student teacher who is learning just like you. You might recognize him by his face, but do you really know him?

Mr. Coleman Lidle, a music major at Mansfield University, has been student teaching for Mr. Bialecki since the beginning of the school year. Primarily a percussionist, Lidle was inspired to study music after watching the movie *Drumline* with his family. He remembers looking at his parents and saying “I want to do that.” From there, he and his parents did some research to find a local drum instructor. Lidle also said that his parents are his role models in his life, as they have taught him many life lessons. He states, “They have supported me in every aspect of my career choices and will continue to do so.”

One of Lidle’s career goals is to participate in The Blue Man Group, an act that is a combination of music and art that is performed throughout the country. He says “...If I get paid to dress up, paint myself blue, and ultimately hit things for three hours a night, I have succeeded in life.”

Lidle’s experience in performing includes marching band during high school and college to which he says, “Misery loves company.” Marching band gave Lidle the opportunity to meet some of his closest friends and practice music. In return for this, he had to endure many rehearsals from scorching to freezing



**A Multi-instrumentalist!** Lidle can play a variety of instruments including: drums, bass, guitar, and just about every instrument in our band.  
*Photo Courtesy of Abigail Hendee*



**Eager to Help.** During band, Lidle makes his way around the band room, hearing how people are playing and how he can assist.  
*Photo Courtesy of Abigail Hendee*

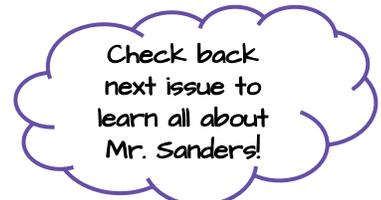


**New to our Jazz Band!** This year, the AACS Jazz Band didn’t have a student to play the bass guitar, so Lidle filled this role, adding an important sound for jazz music. When he leaves, the plans for a new bass player are unknown.  
*Photo Courtesy of Abigail Hendee*

temperatures. Throughout all of his years in marching band, he says “It taught me tremendous amounts of discipline, character, [and] leadership...”

Moving on to his experience of being a music major in college, Lidle says he sacrificed sleep for hours of practicing. It was tough, but he says that he wouldn’t have been able to be as successful without the encouragement and love from his family and friends. Lidle advises the students who plan on attending college, “Don’t let college get in the way of your education.” Other advice that Lidle gives to high school students is, “If you’re scared, good. If you’re nervous, use it. If you’re wrong, learn from it.” He encourages working hard at what you want to achieve, and to keep challenging yourself.

Throughout all of the musical experience he has had, Lidle has learned many life lessons and has grown into the person he is today. Lidle’s last day at AA is December 13th and after he will graduate from Mansfield University in around three weeks. Following his graduation, he’s not completely sure where he will go, but he’s keeping his options open for opportunities. Hopefully his advice will assist in creating decisions that will make you happy and inspire you to work towards your goals.



Check back next issue to learn all about Mr. Sanders!



# Direct Consultant What?

By Attilo Cushing  
Staff Writer / Design Manager



Miss Mormino, an alumni of Alfred Almond, was hired this year as a Direct Consultant teacher, which is a special education teacher who works directly in the general education classrooms as an additional mode of support for students. She is an extremely kind-hearted, patient, and gentle soul who will help anyone, anywhere. She shares Room 257 with Miss Sick, another new hire. When asking Miss Mormino what her inspiration was for becoming a Direct Consultant teacher, I found out that she was greatly influenced by a close family member who required great patience and support from her and her family. It was evident that this experience in her life has greatly influenced who she is as a person today, motivating her to give her time and attention so that students don't feel alone, and always have a helping hand. Although it wasn't as large of an influence

for her, Miss Mormino mentioned that her mother loves reading books and learning. "My mom believes in not only reading and learning, but the ability to learn," Miss Mormino explained. This reinforced her desire to help those that may find learning harder than others.

When I asked what she enjoys most about her job so far, Mormino replied by saying that she enjoys helping kids discover their ability and showing them their true potential. To her, there is no greater reward than the feeling she gets when she watches her students achieve the goals that they set for themselves. For example, Mormino shared that "At the beginning of the year, the seventh graders did an essay, and it was pretty rough. However, the second essay they recently did already showed tons of improvement...I am very excited to see how far they go by the end of the year."

In addition to teaching, Miss Mormino is also very passionate about theatre. In college

she did two theatre productions that were variations on "The Wizard of Oz", which will be performed this year at A-A by the drama department. The version of "The Wizard of Oz," that we will do here at A-A is slightly different than the two Mormino has had experience with, only increasing her excitement. She has generously devoted lots of time and effort to past productions at Alfred Almond, such as "Mary Poppins," "Fiddler On the Roof," and last year's "Annie." She loves working with Miss Karr, and greatly admires what she is able to produce with her students and the environment she creates. Early preparation for "The Wizard of Oz" has already begun, which means the start of many long days for Miss Karr, Miss Mormino, and all of the others in the drama department!

One last thing that Miss Mormino wished to add was that her room is open to anyone who needs help, someone to talk to, or just a place to work. Her room is where people can feel safe, company is always welcome, and where people can always have fun.



"There's no place like home" *The Wizard of Oz* will be coming to Alfred Almond in May of 2018 **Photo from [lexingtonoperahouse.com](http://lexingtonoperahouse.com)**

Check our next issue, to learn about another Direct Consultant teacher, Miss Sick



**Photo of Miss Mormino courtesy of Ms. Backer**



# New Music November

By Zoey Kays  
Staff Writer

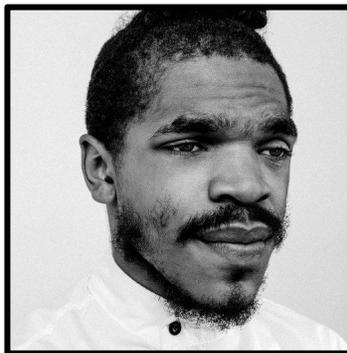
Are you ever frustrated because you're listening to a playlist and you think, "Wow, I've listened to these songs 700 billion times?" Well, I'm here to help. Based on a poll taken in the AACS lunchroom, I have assembled three newly released songs based on the three most liked genres of music. Hopefully you and your fellow classmates can bump to these three new tunes.

Based upon the poll taken, the favorite music genre from Tuesday's sixth mod lunch is...drum roll please... Hip Hop/Rap. When I think of modern rap, I imagine myself Milly Rocking and bopping to an A1 banger. "Walk On Water," by Eminem featuring Beyonce, is a more mellow, strong tune, with a message within. From my perspective, the song is about reminding everyday people not to look up so highly to celebrities, basically saying we romanticize artists such as Eminem and Beyonce. Beyonce sings a line in the song that says, "I walk on water, but I ain't no Jesus. I walk on water, but only when it freezes." This line shows that she has an amazing talent and is exceptionally gifted at what she does for a living, but in reality is still human.

The runner up for second favorite music genre is the infamous Pop Music. However, for this genre and recommendation, I changed the rules a little bit. I chose the song "Hey Ya" by Outkast, covered and interpreted by KAMAU. The original version of the song appeared on Outkast's album "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below" released in September



**Walk on Water**  
*Eminem's audio only Youtube video has over 40 million views. It was released on November 10, 2017 Photo from genius.com*



**KAMAU**  
*KAMAU has released 11 albums and EPs to date. Photo from Twitter.com*



**Keith Urban**  
*Urban's newest release "Female" was teased about on Instagram leading up to its release on November 8, 2017. Photo from eventsfy.com*

of 2003. The downtempo, smooth sounding, rendition of the song was released in November of 2015. Technically, it's not a newly released song, but if you give it a listen on Youtube, I'm sure you won't regret it- especially if you know the original version. This song is sincerely so beautiful and well blended out, it gives my whole body goosebumps. It is well worth the listen.

A new country song is "Female" by Keith Urban. I chose to write about this song because yes, country won the third most liked genre and, I believe it relates to current issues in The United States. Now I'm not one to typically jam out to country music, but this song is very slow and meaningful. The meaning of the song is to show how powerful and purposeful women are. This tune's tone makes it seem as if the singer of the song, Keith Urban, is reminding the world of how resilient women are. The artist lists all qualities women have, then sums those qualities up with "Female." Today in the United States, gender equality still remains a leading problem in the nation. A melody such as this is an example of individuals standing up for their beliefs, which many artists do today. Many artists send various messages through their music; this concept is not new. Artists ranging from Michael Jackson to Tupac Shakur to Kelly Clarkson have used their fan base to send messages through music. "Female" is not only gentle and tranquil on the ears, but also relevant to issues faced everyday.



By  
**Samantha Quick**  
Design Manager

# To See or Not to See: That is the True question

Ratings:

IMDb:  
**8.2/10**

Rotten  
Tomatoes:  
**92%**

Metacritic:  
**74/100**



**Interesting Facts**  
*Shot in Australia, Thor: Ragnarok included over two- dozen sets that were abnormally large. With many interruptions on set, it is amazing how the director finished the movie.*  
**Image from JoBlo.com**

## Thor: Ragnarok

The movie opens in a fiery place only to be described as Hell where Thor (Chris Hemsworth), the God of Thunder, is locked in a cage. With a suspenseful beginning, you are only to wonder what is happening in Asgard. This movie has many new characters including Hela (Cate Blanchett), the Goddess of Death, and Grandmaster (Jeff Goldblum), as well as the involvement of other Marvel characters like Bruce Banner / Hulk (Mark Ruffalo) and Doctor Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch). In the start of the movie, it is thought that the goal is to stop Ragnarok from happening. Ragnarok is a grave prophecy for the future of Asgard. I found that it is important to watch the Marvel superhero movies before watching Thor: Ragnarok. This movie carries many plot twists and mini climaxes while providing comic relief for the watcher. I would say that this movie overall was a funny movie that was sure to keep you on the edge of your seat from the beginning to the end. Thor: Ragnarok provides a cliffhanger that is met up with the last Avenger movie to provide the basis for another movie. Be sure to grab Thor: Ragnarok on DVD or Blu-ray when this movie comes out, or stream it online when possible. You can pre-order online now even though the movie is not available.

## Wonder

Going into the movie theater, I was told that this movie was a tear jerker. I had heard that the movie was touching and sad. I would have to say that the movie was touching, but not that sad. The movie is based on the best selling novel by R.J. Palacio who was inspired by the Choose Kind movement and decided to write about a little boy named August Pullman. Five years after publication, a movie was released starring Jacob Tremblay as August. The movie has parts that will relate to someone you know or maybe even yourself. The Pullman family has gone through thick and thin with one another since Augie was born. His mom, played by Julia Roberts, put her love of art aside to home school Augie till she was comfortable to send him to school. The movie takes place when Augie is entering the fifth grade at a prestigious school. The viewer not only gets to see what Augie had to go through during his first year of middle school, but also his family and friends during this experience. This moving and encouraging movie opened my eyes to how cruel society can be today. I would suggest that you read the book before the movie so you see what the basis of the movie was. I would definitely recommend you to try and find this movie when it comes out in stores on DVD and Blu-ray, or pre-order online now!

**An Inspirational Movement**  
*Author R.J. Palacio was inspired by the Choose Kind Movement for her book. If you are interested in what the movement was, visit the website [here](#).*  
**Image from [impawards.com](#)**



Ratings:

IMDb:  
**8.1/10**

Rotten  
Tomatoes:  
**84%**

Metacritic:  
**68/100**



# Life From A Deer Stand



*By: Christopher Galusha*  
*Staff Writer*

## Hunting Seasons

Bow	Oct 1 - Nov 1
Youth Gun Hunt (Ages 14-15)	Oct 7-9
Crossbow	Nov 4 - Nov 17
Gun	Nov 18 - Dec 10
Muzzleloader/Late Bow	Dec 11 - Dec 19



Above is a NYS doe tag for Allegheny county 8N. Each county has its own Wildlife Manage Unit (WMU).  
Photo courtesy of Chris Galusha

### Tips from other Hunters.

- Mr. Burt Turner** : “Respect the power of your firearm. Respect your game. Respect the environment.”
- Jacob Ermer** : “Take your time and be patient. If you do both of these things then you will be a very successful hunter.”
- Mr. Mike Levey**: “Always make sure of your target.”
- Mr. Richard Calkins** : “ Always assume your firearm is loaded.” “Always make sure your gun is unloaded before you get into your treestand.” “Treat your firearm as a tool not a toy.” “Common Courtesy for landowners”.

## REPORT YOUR HARVEST

➤ **Take it**

➤ **Tag it**

➤ **Report it**

It's the LAW, and good management!

The DEC has come up with this addition when you purchase your hunting license. Report your kill to the DEC so they know how many permits to give out next season. Photo courtesy of Chris Galusha

## ECO Matthew Baker's Response

I had the opportunity to interview Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO) Matthew Baker. ECO Baker is in charge of the Steuben County Area and allowed me to take time from his busy day to interview him so we can see what the DEC officers really do to get ready for the Hunting Seasons.

- 1.) Could you tell me what kind of preparations you have to make in order to get ready for hunting seasons as a DEC officer?  
To prepare for hunting season we must catch up on all non hunting related cases and get the corresponding paperwork done. Also we must do some scouting in preparation for the upcoming hunting season and coordinate with fellow officers as well as other agencies.
- 2.) What kind of behaviors do you witness from hunters that help you know that they are up to no good or doing something illegal?  
There are many different ways to tell if something's not right or may be illegal with an individual. Mostly it's reading the mannerisms of the individual and if their story changes over time. Much of this just takes years of experience to get good at.
- 3.) What is your favorite part about being able to conserve and help make sure everyone is following the laws and regulations?  
My favorite part about this time of year is to educate the public and help ensure that people do things correctly.
- 4.) What is your favorite thing about hunting season?  
I like to see young people be successful at anything they choose to hunt and see the look in their face when they get their first deer.
- 5.) What had encouraged you or what made you choose to become a DEC officer?  
I wanted to become an Environmental Conservation Officer because I like being in the outdoors and interacting with the public. I also enjoy many hunting and fishing activities.



# The Path to Justice

By Kaitlyn Cook  
Editor in Chief

On October 30, 2017, Special Counsel Robert Mueller indicted two top former Trump campaign officials on 12 counts, according to Politico.com. Indictment is a formal accusation that a person has committed a crime, and the recent indictments of Paul Manafort and Rick Gates has left the nation shaken. Both Manafort and Gates' charges included conspiracy against the United States and money laundering. They have pleaded not guilty to all charges.

According to Fortune.com, Mueller was appointed as special counsel on May 17 after the director of the FBI, James Comey, was fired. Comey was investigating the Trump campaign after allegations came out about Russian collusion. Collusion, as defined by Merriam-Webster, is a secret agreement or cooperation, especially for an illegal purpose. Mueller was a director of the FBI from 2001 to 2013. Both Democrats and Republicans thoroughly supported the appointment of Mueller, according to the New York Times.

Despite the fact that Mueller was appointed to investigate the links between the Trump presidential campaign and the Russian government, neither Manafort's nor Gates' indictments mentioned collusion. However, according to the indictment, both worked for the Ukrainian government, and received payment from said government, without letting the Attorney General know. Manafort and Gates also attempted to hide the money they earned by using offshore accounts, and then transferred the money into the United States.

Manafort and Gates were not the only people who were indicted. According to Fortune.com, George Papadopoulos, Trump's foreign policy advisor during his campaign, had pleaded guilty in July to lying to the FBI. The incident happened during an interview in January of 2017. As reported by the New York Times, Papadopoulos had conversations with a Russian professor who he claimed was "a nothing," but now acknowledges had close ties to the Russian government. Papadopoulos also lied about when he began communicating with the professor. In the interview he stated that the professor was communicating with him before he began working on the campaign; Papadopoulos has now admitted that communications began after his employment on the Trump campaign started. Papadopoulos has since been cooperating with investigators who are now questioning aides within the White House. UPDATE (12/1/17): On December 1, 2017 Michael Flynn, Trump's former National Security Advisor was indicted for lying to the FBI about conversation he had with the Russian ambassador reports the New York Times. He pleaded guilty.

**October 7, 2016**

Obama Administration announces belief that Russia responsible for Wikileaks publication of private emails



**January 6, 2017**

Director of National Intelligence confirms Russia trying to undermine Clinton, and prefers Trump

**May 9, 2017**  
Comey is fired

**July 26, 2017**  
Federal Agents raided Manafort's home, left with documents and copies of Manafort's computer files.

**May 17, 2017**  
Robert Mueller (pictured) appointed Special Counsel



**March 20, 2017**  
FBI Director, James Comey confirms FBI investigation Russia interference in 2016 presidential election

**October 30, 2017**  
Manafort (left) and Gates indicted

**December 1, 2017**  
Michael Flynn is indicted



# Senior Soccer Stars

**By: Matt I.  
Staff Writer**

Six exceptional seniors from our very own varsity soccer teams were honored with the opportunity to play in the Steuben County Exceptional Senior game this past November. Sophie N., Emily N., Hannah K., Evan W., Matt I., and Gavin P. were all selected to participate in this game. The Girls Steuben county Exceptional Senior Game was held at Geneseo college and the boys' game was held at Houghton College. To be selected to play in this game, players must show skill and leadership throughout the fall soccer season. These six athletes definitely showed these traits the entire season.

On a brisk Sunday, November 5, at Geneseo college, the girls took the field for the last time together and did not disappoint. Throughout the game they all showed off their defensive skill and Hannah even added a goal for her team in the first half. Emily, Hannah, and Sophie were a huge part of the Alfred Almond Girls varsity soccer team's success. Throughout the year they were the center pieces of the defense and were one of the main reasons the team let up only 19 goals on the whole year. These three girls obviously showed that they deserved a spot on the exceptional senior team.

When I asked Emily how the game went she said "We lost 3-2 but it was still a lot of fun because we were just there to play together for

the last time with the best players in the county." As you would expect they were a little sad that it was the last time they would represent Alfred Almond together on the soccer field, but besides that it was a great experience for them.



**Lady Eagles Exceptional Seniors**  
*Hannah K. left, Sophie N. center, and Emily N. right take a celebratory photo at the Steuben County Exceptional Senior game.*  
*Photo courtesy of Erin Geibel*

On Friday, November 10, the boys had their last opportunity to represent Alfred Almond on the pitch at Houghton College. This was definitely the coldest soccer game that these players had ever been a part of. When we arrived the athletes were surprised to see that the temperature was a shivering 22 degrees and there was around an inch of snow on the field. Our boys played on the Steuben County team and their opponent was the Allegany County team. The final score was 7-0 in Steuben's favor



**Boys Varsity Exceptional Seniors**  
*Matt I. left, Gavin P. center, Evan W. left showing off their Exceptional senior shirts*  
*Photo courtesy of ALCEN*

- a blowout victory for our seniors.

The three boys, Evan, Matt, and Gavin that were chosen to represent Alfred Almond for the exceptional senior game were all starters on the historic state championship team in 2016 and were also the core of this year's Alfred Almond Boys varsity soccer team. Gavin had 8 goals and 2 assists on the season, Matt had 4 goals and 1 assist, and Evan had 1 goal and 4 assists. I asked Evan about his experience at the game, he replied with "It was probably the coldest two hours of my life." After he gave me that answer I also asked Gavin about his experience, he replied with "It was a lot of fun to play with the best players in the county and it was super cold." Although the game was cold we all represented Alfred Almond well and it was a great experience and fans that attended enjoyed seeing these seniors play together for the last time.



# BASKETBALL SEASON TIPS OFF

By **Sam Warren** Copy Editor

Alfred Almond has seen many changes from last year's basketball season to this year's. The Boys Junior Varsity program, previously coached by Brian Marlatt, was cut this season as Mr. Marlatt moved to head coach of the Boys Varsity program. Mrs. Turner recently resigned from Girls Varsity to further her college education, while Mr. Weller, who was formerly the Boys Varsity coach, decided to replace her for this year as the girls needed an experienced coach in Mrs. Turner's absence. There were also changes in the modified departments with Mr. Donlon changing from the girls team to boys team, with Ms. Curtis taking charge of the girls. The JV girls will still be coached by Mrs. Chamberlain.

Mr. Donlon spent last year's season as head coach of the Girls Modified team but this year he has taken the step across the gender pool to lead the Boys Modified team; he chose the Boys Team to give his daughter a break from him coaching, but also to give the boys a positive male role model. Mr. Donlon will be assisted by Coach Tom Kenney; Mr. Donlon believes Mr. Kenney has probably coached various sports for upward of 30 years, saying, "he's a fantastic coach and has tons of things to bring to the team. He's a great help." Donlon has hopes of a 500 record, and it's highly possible; they're a good group of hardworking boys. Though he would like a positive record, wins aren't as important to Coach Donlon

as improvement for the team and gaining back the JV program for next year.

To replace Mr. Donlon, the Girls Modified program called upon A-A's new Physical Education teacher, Ms. Curtis. Ms. Curtis started playing basketball in fourth grade, but she was dribbling since it was physically possible for her to do so. She has a large love for athletics and basketball in particular; Curtis played throughout all of highschool and four years at the University of Pittsburgh in Bradford. She very much enjoys coaching, and for her, it's somewhat like a family business as her dad was also a coach. She has six years of experience coaching at the high school level: four years at Copenhagen Central School at modified, and two years at Marcus Whitman at junior varsity. She believes the season will be considered successful as long as there are no injuries or problems and everyone improves their basketball skills. Coach Curtis hopes to win at least half of her games, but doesn't believe wins are crucial for a modified team saying, "it's all about improvement."

Last year, Mr. Weller was the coach of the Boys Varsity team but he switched over to the Girls Varsity team this season. He decided to coach the girls because there was an opening, and he felt that he had a fair amount of experience and was confident in Mr. Marlatt's capabilities to take over the Boys Varsity team. Mr. Weller's main

goal is to finish the season with a couple wins to keep momentum to push the team through the county and sectional tournament. Mr. Weller would "much rather have a strong finish to the season than a strong beginning."

Mr. Marlatt has high expectations for the Boys Varsity team this season. There was a jump in players from 8 to 17 this year, giving the team much more depth. There is a very talented bench and a strong starting lineup. "We have a lot more athletes than last year and we'll definitely be able to use that to our advantage. We don't generally run with teams, but I think we'll be able to this year," Mr. Marlatt said. Mr. Marlatt also believes that the team schedule is way easier than last year.

Mrs. Chamberlain is the coach of the Junior Varsity girls team. Her expectations are for the team to maintain a good attitude and stay close-knit. It's not about a winning record, as long as everyone improves she will be happy. Mrs. Chamberlain has been involved in A-A's basketball program for 22 years. She started coaching out of pure love for the game after playing in high school from seventh through twelfth grade.

Every coach would like you to come watch and cheer for their team. If you would like to see the first home game this year, the boys varsity team faces off with the Prattsburgh Vikings on December 6 at 6:15.

**To see the winter sports schedule click here:**

**[AA Winter Sports Schedule](#)**



# 'TIS THE SKI-SON

By  
**Veronica Morsman**  
Design Manager

## All About Downhill Skiing

Downhill skiing, or alpine skiing, is a sport in which you slide down a snow-covered hill on skis. The skis have fixed-heel bindings to attach to your ski boots. While racing, skiers wear helmets and giant slalom suits (skin tight suits for less wind resistance), but they stay warm with many layers of clothing when they are not racing. The speed of your descent downhill can be controlled by changing the angle of your skis or skiing across the hill instead of down it. The assistance of a ski lift or a gondola is needed in order to get to the top of the hill, since the ski equipment worn makes it nearly impossible for the skiers to efficiently hike up the hill on their own. The sport is typically practiced at ski resorts; our ski team at Alfred-Almond attends Swain most days for practices and meets. Ski resorts provide ski lifts, first aid, restaurants, and artificial snowmaking.



## What Happens In a Typical Ski Meet?

When I asked Duncan, senior classmate and member of the ski team, this is what he had to say: "We get to Swain, then we change into our ski clothes, and after that we take two or three warm-up runs down the hill before we race. Afterwards we head over to the race room where there is usually food; after we eat we go up to the top of the hill and watch the modified race. Then the boy skiers carry the girls' jackets to the bottom of the hill while the girls race so they have their jackets when they're done - this is a tradition. The boys go back up and do their race. After they have each finished their first race, the girls and boys both race again. Finally we head home on the schoolbus."



**Friends Who Ski Together Stay Together**  
*Ellen M., Sophie N., and Casey R. are all smiles after hitting the slopes.*  
*Photo Courtesy of Sophie N.*



**Abby H. Wipes Out**  
*Four year member of the ski team, Abby H., takes a spill during one of her races.*  
*Photo by Max Schulte, from democratandchronicle.com*



**What IS Your Best Memory on the Ski Team?**

"Mr.Bialecki [AA ski team coach] breaking his ski bindings every year, for the past six years." -Duncan B.C.

"When Kyra [former ski team member] threw a snowball and it hit Mr.Bialecki in the face. He was upset."  
-Sophie N.

"Winning the league last year for girls because I felt like we helped and contributed to the win. We all did great last year and it felt great to be awarded for our efforts." -Abby H.

"When we were at Bristol for Sectionals and all the girls fell on the easy trail that lead to the race course."  
-Ellen M.

**What Was Your Worst Ski Accident?**

"I went off a jump and fell on my knee, I tore a ligament and also sprained it." -Duncan B.C.

"I fell a lot during my first year on the team, mostly on the headwall [the uppermost part of the hill]. I got snow on my face and it stung, then it made me really sad." -Sophie N.

"Once when I was getting off the double ski lift, the tips of my skis went under me and I smashed my face into the ground. I had a cut on my face and had to go to the indoor track meet right after." -Maya R. [Maya has been skiing for years, but has decided to join the ski team this year. She is looking forward to bettering her skills this winter.]



**One Big Happy Family**

*The 2016-2017 team poses for a group photo after their sectional races at Swain.*

*Photo Courtesy of Sophie N.*



**Excited For Snow**

*Pictured (left to right ) Casey R., Abby H., Maya R., Ellen M., and Sophie N.*

*Photo Courtesy of Maya R.*

**What IS Your Favorite Part About Being on the Ski Team?**

"Oh gosh, probably being able to ski every day and having a good time with all my fellow skiers." -Duncan B.C.

"Lots of food on race days, and hanging out with all of my friends." -Sophie N.

"The family feel it has; we eat meals together before our races and we spend so much time together it's like a second family." -Abby H.

"Going to Whiteface for States with Kyra and watching Bobby Evans (former Olympic ski coach and former Alfred-Almond ski coach) ski moguls." -Kyler Kress



Good luck to the Alfred-Almond Ski Team on their upcoming season!





# Holidays Around the World

By Chloe Muhleisen  
Copy Editor

The winter holidays are a time for people to come together, spend time with family, and celebrate. Cultures all around the world celebrate in unique and different ways. Some cultures celebrate Christmas, others celebrate Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. Some welcome in the new year.

I set out to find the most interesting traditions and celebrations that happen during the winter holidays, and found that there are 160 countries that celebrate Christmas. Although many people forget the history of Christmas, it was originally intended to be a sacred, religious holiday celebrating the birth of Christ. In the United States, people usually decorate their homes with lights, Christmas trees, and many decorations. A common tradition is for people to hang stockings above their chimneys or on a mantle of some sort for “Santa Claus” to fill on Christmas Eve while everyone is sleeping. It is also common for parents to give their children many gifts. Because of this, Christmas has become an increasingly commercialized holiday. On the morning of December 25, families gather around a Christmas tree and exchange gifts. Some people have different traditions, but most choose to spend the holidays with their families. Although many countries celebrate Christmas, there are a variety of traditions that differ from what people do in the United States.

A typical Christmas in Austria is atypical in comparison to the United States. Larissa, a former foreign exchange student of Alfred-Almond, had a conversation with me about how different Christmas is in her home



**Bon Appétit!** *La Bûche de Noël is one example of the many traditional French foods served during the holidays. Photo from food.com*

country. Christmas is the most popular holiday to celebrate in Austria. It depends on your religion, but mostly everybody celebrates it, even non-religious people. This is also the case in the United States. Austrians “don’t typically celebrate Thanksgiving, so people start to prepare for Christmas in mid-November,” described Larissa. Christmas markets around the country open, and huge Christmas trees are put in public places. Larissa commented that “cute lights are hung around the city, but Austrians don’t decorate the outside or inside of their houses for Christmas.” She believes that “Americans overdo decorations.” Christmas in Austria is not celebrated on the 25th as it is in the United States. Instead, Austrians celebrate on the 24th of December. Austrians eat many different foods during the holidays such as gingerbread, Vanillekipferl, Linzer Augen, Kokosbusserl, and many homemade cookies.

Baking cookies is a very big deal in Austria during the holiday season. Austrians also eat goose, fish, goulash, and fondue on Christmas day.

On Christmas day, Austrians wake up and dress themselves in nice clothes, then gather around the Christmas tree and sing. Additionally, one thing that many people have become familiar with in recent years is the myth of St. Nicholas and Krampus. It is said that on the evening of December 6, St. Nicholas visits the homes of well-behaved children and rewards them with gifts. In contrast to this pleasant thought, St. Nicholas’ companion, Krampus, is said to visit the homes of ill-behaved children to kidnap and punish them. Many young people dress as Krampus during the holiday season to scare others. If you ever find yourself in Austria on December 6, watch out for Krampus.

France is another country that celebrates Christmas. I asked to sit down with Maeghan, a former resident of France and current student of Alfred-Almond, to discuss the differences in how Christmas is celebrated. “Christmas is not as different as people tend to think. The main differences are some of the foods and festivities. For example, in my town there was always music playing in the streets and there were bouncy houses and trampolines set up everywhere,” Maeghan explained. The French tend to be more festive, however if you live in northern France, you usually don’t get any snow. Some foods that are eaten during the holiday season in France are Bûche de Noël, oysters, patées, truffles,



# Holidays Around the World, Cont'd

froie gras, pastries, and turkey.

In China during the holiday season, Christmas is not typically celebrated. Instead, many people celebrate the Chinese New Year. The Chinese New Year is an important celebration in modern China. It was originally a time to honor deities, or gods, and ancestors. The first day of the Chinese New Year is February 16. There are many traditions associated with this important holiday. One important tradition for Chinese families is to have a "reunion dinner." This is the most important dinner of the year, in which generations of Chinese families reunite and sit down for an amazing



meal. Families also exchange red envelopes which contain money. The red color is believed to bring good luck to people and ward off evil spirits. Families also give each other clothing during this time. Buildings, houses, and streets are decorated with lucky red items. The Chinese New Year is very important in Chinese culture and is the most highly anticipated celebration of the year.

Although many countries celebrate the holiday season in different ways, one thing will remain the same. Holidays and celebrations bring family and friends closer together and allow for amazing memories and happiness.



Hide your kids! *Krampus, the evil cousin of St. Nicholas, is believed by some to steal naughty children away on the night of December 6. Watch out!*  
*Photo from wikipedia.org*



*A Time for Celebration The Chinese New Year is a very important part of Chinese culture. Photo from wikipedia.com*





# Gift Ideas for Everyone



By: Emily Noone  
Technology Advisor

## Moms

## Dads

## Teens

## Kids

### Under \$15

#### Lotion



The more festive the better. [Lotion](#)

#### Lanyard



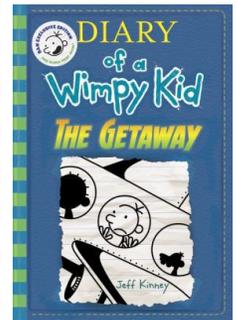
Who doesn't need a lanyard? [Lanyards](#)

#### Cool Socks



Interesting socks are all the rage these days, especially among teenagers. [Socks](#)

#### Books



Most kids are still required to read every night, so why not get them a book they would enjoy? [Diary of a Wimpy Kid](#)

### Under \$30

#### Clay Hand Prints



All of the supplies to make these can be found at Michael's. All you need is some oven bake clay, ribbon, paint, brushes, a hand, and you're set! [Clay](#), [Paint](#), [Brushes](#), and [Ribbon](#)

#### Desktop Golf



For your dad while he's bored at work or just something to set on a table in the house. [Desktop Golf](#)

#### iTunes Gift Card



Almost anything to do with electronics will go over well with teens. [iTunes Gift Card](#)

#### Nerf Guns



Nerf gun wars were always a lot of fun. The more people the better! [Nerf Guns](#)



Moms

Dads

Teens

Kids

Under \$50

Shoes



Boots are always a popular shoe choice in the winter. [Boots](#)

Sports Team Apparel



It's a typical dad thing to be a big fan of a sports team, so why not get him something with his favorite team's logo? [Team Apparel](#)

Phone Case



Speck cases come in many different colors and designs, perfect for almost anybody. [Phone Cases](#)

Bean Bag Chair



Something more fun to sit on than a bed, and it's portable. [Bean Bag Chair](#)

Under \$100

Sweater



Everybody enjoys a nice warm sweater during the colder months of the year. [Sweater](#)

Tools



A handy tool kit is always helpful to have close by. [Tools](#)

Bluetooth Speaker



Speakers come in handy when you want to listen to music louder than your phone allows. [Speaker](#)

Legos



Legos take some time to put together, but they always make you feel really good once it's finished. [Legos](#)

Under \$500

Birthstone Necklace



A gift that allows your mom to take a piece of each of her kids wherever she goes. [Birthstone Necklace](#)

TV



You probably already have a TV in your living room, but you could get your dad the newest TV to make the games or shows that he watches even more enjoyable. [TV](#)

Laptop



Useful for school and college, laptops are a lot more fun to use when they're not given to you by the school. [Laptop](#)

Tablet



A tablet full of games is good for kids for long car rides or just to keep them busy. Useful for younger kids, too, because of all the apps that are used to help kids learn. An iPad Mini will be easier to hold for littler kids. [iPad Mini](#)



# Fir This Pine Season

By Jessie Matteson, Editor in Chief

Every Christmas you're faced with one monumental task: buying the perfect tree. Although it may seem easy at first glance, appearance isn't everything; you have to find the tree that's the perfect fit for your family. Some parents of Alfred-Almond students even have their opinion to share! So if you're tired of stepping on sharp needles, having to rehang fallen ornaments, or sneezing all season, let me guide you through the best and worst aspects of various trees.

## Option 1: Artificial Trees

There are many different types of artificial Christmas trees. Here are some of the main categories.

**Pre-lit:** Some of the artificial trees come with lights already built in. These lights can come in various sets of colors, from rainbow to just white, depending on what your family desires.

**Needle type:** You can choose what type of needles your tree has. These range from short, thick, and spiky foliage to long, thin, and soft.

**Colored:** The color of the tree itself can actually be selected, so you could get any Christmas-time shade you could think of - even white!

**Pre-Decorated:** Trees could come manufactured with fake pinecones and berries to give them a more realistic feel, as well as a pretty look.

## Pros

- ★ As implied by the name, artificial trees do not have the all natural features, appearance, or smell that pine, spruce, or fir do, thus eliminating those allergenic threats.
- ★ Many people think that these trees detract from the Christmas spirit, due to their usual small, flimsy stature, but it's quite the contrary. These trees can be manufactured to any size needed, fitting even the largest of homes!
- ★ Additionally, numerous ornaments can hang upon the branches, even larger types.
- ★ A lot of money can be saved. Instead of having to spend an annual \$50, you can spend \$100 on just one occasion to last a lifetime! "I think we've had three Christmas trees in the past 18 years." (Shawn C.)
- ★ You don't have to constantly worry about remembering to water the tree- all you have to do is plug it in and voila - it works!
- ★ These trees can do a LOT of funky things. They can be built to spin, have lights, or be a different color. "The lights are really abundant... it's not just around, around, around... it's lit from the inside out." (Shawn C.)

## Cons

- ❑ Depending on what type of artificial tree you buy, the plastic inside could be toxic. Instead of choosing what may look the coolest, you may have to buy a different tree to preserve family health.
- ❑ Assembly required. This means having to take the tree out of the box, build it, and when the time comes, tear it down again. This could be a slight hassle, especially if you have a hard time fitting the tree back into the box.
- ❑ The tree is not biodegradable, meaning that if you threw the tree away, the environment would not be able to easily decompose it. This is extremely different from real trees, which can be easily thrown, or planted, back into the world.
- ❑ Doesn't have the traditional evergreen smell we all know and love.



A Different Scene  
Imagine this beautiful silver,  
pre-lit tree in your living room!  
Photo from lowes.com



## Option 2: Genuine Trees

Now here's some information on a more "traditional" type of tree: real. Be sure to look into the different types of natural trees as well so you can figure out the overall best option for yourself and your family.

Now if you choose to get a real tree, there are some prominent sub categories you need to know about.

**Spruce:** Needles are extremely sharp, and short. Bark is typically pretty rough, and will get pretty scaly as they age. This breed grows particularly well in the East, since there is nice, rich soil here. Blue spruce is particularly popular since it is symmetrically shaped and has a nice, blue foliage.

**Fir:** Have short, soft needles that typically don't hurt if you're prodded with them. They usually come in a darker green shade, but color still varies. These trees grow well in coastal regions, and are typically found on sea level. One frequent breed is the balsam fir due to its dark green undertones and its classic evergreen scent.

**Pine:** The needles are long, soft, and weak. Needles can also be produced in bundles, rather than just one in a spot. Bark is typically a red and brown blended color, and is tough. However, branches are not as stiff as other types of trees, which can make hanging heavier ornaments difficult.

## Pros

- ★ Many real trees are sturdy, so that almost all decorations can be hung upon them.
- ★ There are many small businesses that sell Christmas trees throughout the world. Buying locally sold, organic trees supports your community against big business.
- ★ Organic trees are biodegradable, meaning that they can be disposed of easily with little to no concern.
- ★ Real trees also come with that beautiful Christmas scent, and fill your home with it for the entire season. "I love the smell, the touch... There's a huge difference between a real tree and an artificial tree and I just like the fact that it's real, that it's alive." (Gina M.)
- ★ Some trees come potted when you buy them. If so, you can replant them whenever possible after the Christmas season passes!

**Pine(con't):** These trees are typically grown from the midwest to the east states. The popularity varies for these trees depending on what region they're in. For example, the Virginia Pine is really popular in the South, but the Scots Pine is commonly found in Michigan.

## Cons

- ❑ Easy fire hazard, so make sure you're extremely careful around it.
- ❑ Pine needles frequently fall, and will really hurt if you step on them. So, you'll have to constantly vacuum the area around the tree to prevent this nuisance.
- ❑ Have to be watered to supply them with the correct nutrients needed for survival. If you forget too often, the tree will wilt and could die prematurely.
- ❑ Takes a large effort to get them set up with lights and the stand, as their weight makes them easily tip over. "When they are lopsided, hence weighted too much on side, and they fall over." (Gina M.)
- ❑ People can be allergic to real trees.
- ❑ Pets can be easily drawn to them, and sometimes will excrete on or eat the tree.



Colorado Blue Spruce

*With its captivating color and texture, trees such as these can be found in numerous households.*

*Photo from theplantingtree.com*



# HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS FROM HERE TO THERE

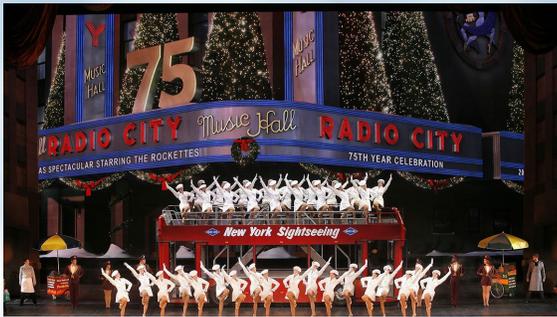
## New York City Events

By: Maya Racho  
Copy Editor

**Rockefeller Christmas Tree Lighting:** The Rockefeller Christmas tree is the largest tree in New York City, and features an annual lighting with shows and extravaganzas every year. This season, on November 29, the tree will be lit in Rockefeller Plaza and will feature live shows as well.



Rockefeller center around the holiday season.  
Photo from [theodessyonline.com](http://theodessyonline.com)



The Rockettes famous Christmas performance is held in Radio City Music Hall every year.  
Photo from [broadwaybox.com](http://broadwaybox.com)

**Rockettes Show:** From November 10 to January 1, Radio City Music Hall offers a Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes. Every holiday season, Radio City turns into a holiday wonderland, displaying new and improved technology for the upcoming season. Ticket prices range from \$39-295.

**Bryant Park Winter Village:** Bryant Park Winter Village is one of Manhattan's most spectacular winter wonderlands. Visitors can enjoy holiday shops, pop-up eateries, and an ice skating rink. Bryant Park contains the only free admission ice skating rink in all of New York City.



Bryant Park showcases local shops and restaurants from all around the city.  
Photo from [bryantpark.org](http://bryantpark.org)



Numerous stores draw in customers through their intricate window displays.  
Photo from [photoframd.com](http://photoframd.com)

**Holiday Window Displays:** Every year, stores all over Manhattan partake in numerous window display decorations, ranging from beautiful Christmas scenes, to eye-catching artistic displays. Large department stores such as Macy's, Lord & Taylor, and Bloomingdales spare no expense to draw in more customers.

**Dyker Heights Christmas Lights:** Residents in Dyker Heights participate in a neighborhood-wide Christmas light decorating. Most people in the area hang their lights after Thanksgiving, and set up displays as well. People from all over travel to Brooklyn to experience the breathtaking light displays.



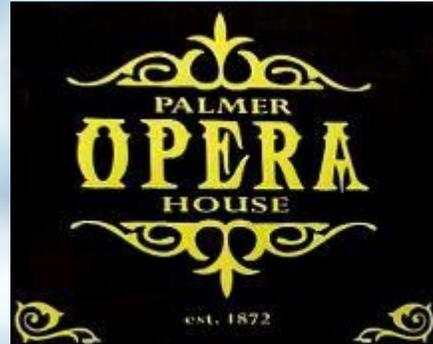
Though this isn't a competition, neighbors strive to outdo one another in Dyker Heights.  
Photo from [timeout.com](http://timeout.com)



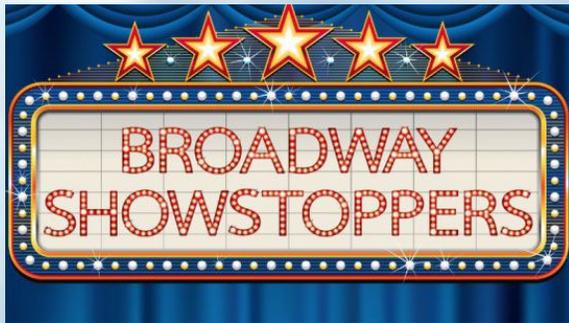
# HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS FROM HERE TO THERE

## Local Events

On November 18 from 7-9 p.m. in the Palmer Opera House, located in Cuba NY, A Many Splendored Evening allows locals to enjoy an evening of wine, dessert, music and auctions of decorated trees. Tickets are \$15 with the event benefiting the Cuba-Rushford Toys for Kids program.



*The Palmer Opera House showcases many local shows around the holiday season.  
Photo from eventbrite.com*



*The Broadway Showstoppers feature numerous local artists from around the area.  
Photo from ticketor.com*

Palmer Opera House Showstoppers from Broadway: At the Palmer Opera House on November 19 at 2 p.m., numerous local talented musicians will be bringing a taste of Broadway to Cuba, NY. Enjoy Broadway show tunes from different local artists. Admission is by donation.

Branson "Christmas" on the Road: On Sunday, November 26 at 3 p.m., Branson on the Road will be performing at 12 West Main Street in Cuba, New York. Branson on the Road offers an experience unlike any other, fit with singing, dancing, comedy, and more. Tickets are \$22.50. Appropriate for all ages, this show is definitely a can't miss!



*Branson Christmas on the Road has over 20 years of experience.  
Photo from bransonontheroad.com*



*The Wellsville Holiday Kickoff features numerous free local events.  
Photo from sandyjournal.com*

On December 7 from 7-9 p.m. in Wellsville, residents can enjoy a Holiday Kickoff. From carolers to chestnuts, a living nativity and fireworks, this attraction is sure to bring enjoyment and Christmas spirit. Mainstreet activities will be conducted from 6-8 p.m. and end with fireworks at 9 p.m.

The Angelica Players will be performing their annual holiday production on December 8 from 7-9 p.m. in the Angelica Library. Tickets are \$6 and can be purchased at The Angelica Sweet Shop. Come support the local actors and actresses as they put on a spectacular holiday production.



*The Angelica Players perform year round with many different productions.  
Photo from alleganychamber.org*



# An icy Mixtape



**BY DUNCAN BRYANT-CARTY**  
**STAFF WRITER AND PR MANAGER**

“What is your favorite Christmas song?” This is the question I asked for a survey of popular Christmas music in our school. I randomly sampled 10 students from each grade and 10 staff members. Upon completion of the survey, results were combined into a cozy Christmas playlist for your enjoyment this holiday season. Also included is a list of the most popular songs from the whole survey and the dates these songs were originally released. Now from the *Observer* to you, we wish you a Happy Holiday.

[For a complete YouTube song playlist click here](#)

**Poll:**

- Jingle Bells - **15**
- All I Want for Christmas - **10**
- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer - **6**
- Jingle Bell Rock - **4**
- Sleigh Ride - **4**
- Christmas Time is Here (Charlie Brown) - **3**
- Frosty the Snowman - **2**
- I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus - **2**
- Rockin Around the Christmas Tree - **2**
- Deck the Halls (Mannheim Steamroller) - **2**

**Playlist:**

1. Jingle Bells
2. All I Want For Christmas
3. Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer
4. Jingle Bell Rock
5. Sleigh Ride
6. Christmas Time is Here (Charlie Brown)
7. Frosty the Snowman
8. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
9. Rockin Around the Christmas Tree
10. Deck the Halls (Mannheim Steamroller)
11. 12 Days of Christmas
12. 12 Days of Christmas (Muppets)
13. Santa Baby
14. Carol of the Bells
15. Carol of the Bells (Pentatonix)
16. Dashing through the Snow
17. Mary Did you Know?
18. Grandma got Run Over by a Reindeer
19. Have a Holly Jolly Christmas
20. Oh Christmas Tree
21. Last Christmas
22. Greensleeves
23. Santa Claus is Coming to Town
24. Little Drummer Boy (Pentatonix)
25. Christmas Lights (Yellow Card)
26. Baby it's Cold Outside
27. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
28. White Christmas
29. Joy to the World
30. The Child is Born
31. Simply Having a Wonderful Christmas Time (Paul McCartney)



**Popular Song Release Date:**

- Jingle Bells - 1859
- All I want for Christmas - 1994
- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer - 1939
- Jingle Bell Rock - 1957
- Sleigh Ride - 1946
- Christmas Time Is Here (Charlie Brown) - 1965
- Frosty the Snowman - 1950
- I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus - 1952
- Rockin Around the Christmas Tree - 1958
- Deck the Halls (Mannheim Steamroller) - 1984





# Holiday Treats

By : Sophie Napolitano, Public Relations Manager

## Pt. 1 : Reindeer Cookies

### Ingredients:

- 1 box chocolate cake mix
- 2 large eggs
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1 can chocolate frosting
- 1 bag mini Nilla Wafers
- 1 bag m&ms (pick out red & brown ones)
- 1 package candy eyes
- 1 bag mini pretzels
- 1 can white icing, optional (to use as an alternative to the m&ms and candy eyes)

### Directions:

1. In a medium sized bowl, combine your cake mix, eggs, and vegetable oil, and stir together to make a thick cookie batter.
2. Scoop 1 1/2 - 2 TBS of dough and roll into a ball.
3. Bake cookies for about 8 minutes and 350F until the tops start to get crinkly.
4. Remove from oven and transfer to cooling rack to cool completely.
5. Spread frosting over the top of a cookie.
6. Place one nilla wafer onto the bottom half of cookie.
7. Place two candy eyes above the nilla wafer.
8. Place two pretzels above the eyes like antlers.
9. Attach one m&m to each Nilla wafer using frosting.
10. Allow frosting to set and serve!



Photo & Recipe from  
[www.lmlid.com](http://www.lmlid.com)

# Pt. 2 : Chocolate Crinkles



Photo from  
[www.seededatthetable.com](http://www.seededatthetable.com)

## Ingredients:

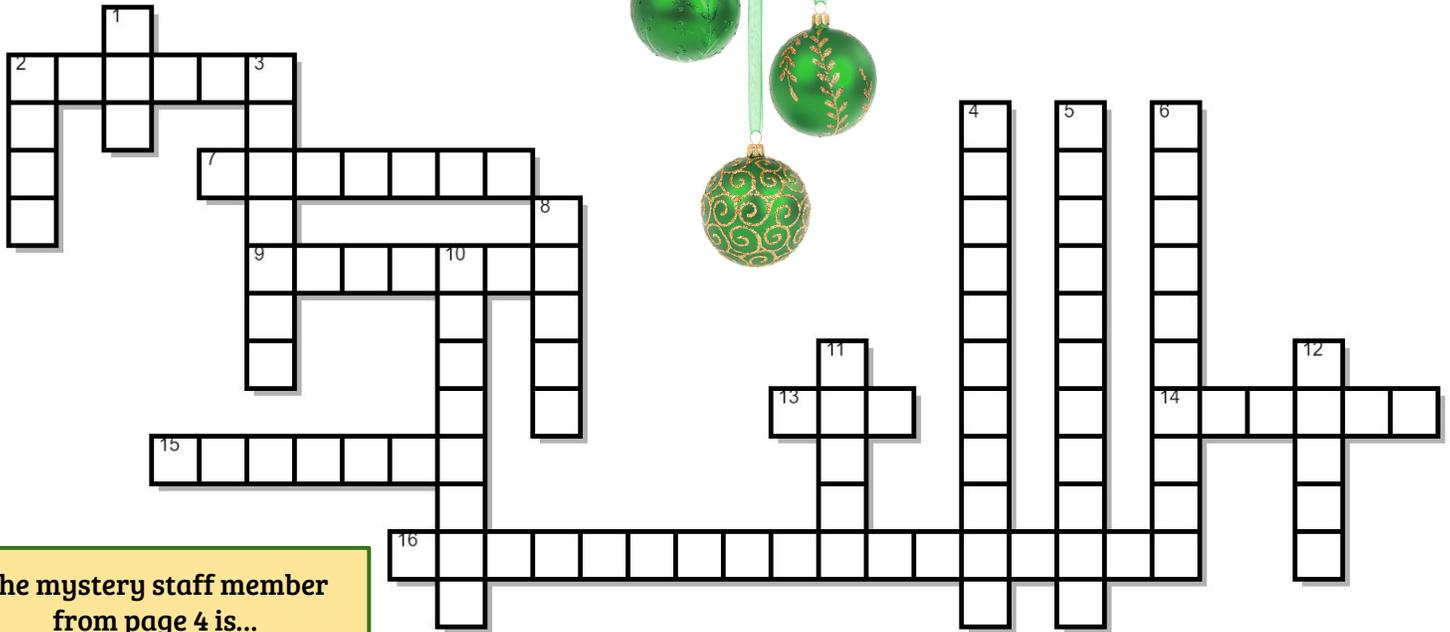
- 1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 1/2 cups white granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon espresso powder (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar

## Directions:

1. Mix together cocoa powder, white sugar, and vegetable oil
2. Add vanilla and eggs, one at a time
3. Combine flour, baking powder, salt, and espresso powder together in a separate bowl
4. Mix dry ingredients into the cocoa oil mix but don't over beat. Should have a doughy consistency
5. Cover dough and let it chill for at least one hour
6. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees
7. Roll the dough into balls, then roll the balls in the powdered sugar so that they are completely covered, then place on cookie sheet
8. Bake cookies for 10-12 minutes
9. Allow cookies to cool and then "Bon Appétit!"



# Fun Games for Your Pleasure



The mystery staff member from page 4 is...  
**Mrs. Bain-Lucey!**  
Photo courtesy of Morgan Giglio



**DOWN**

- 1 How many sides do snowflakes have?
- 2 Chionophobia is an abnormal fear of what?
- 3 In what country did the custom of putting up a Christmas tree originate?
- 4 What model is used in Chemistry, but is also a holiday treat?
- 5 Where is the largest Christmas tree in New York City?
- 6 What is a formal accusation that someone has committed a crime?
- 8 What is the last name of the person who sings "All I Want For Christmas Is You"?
- 10 What kind of animal can be turned into a cookie?
- 11 The French word "Noel" is often used around Christmas, but what was its original meaning in Latin?
- 12 What is the last name of the new student teacher who works with Mr. Bialecki?

**ACROSS**

- 2 What is the only six letter word with a double "i" in the middle?
- 7 What is the third reindeer named in Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?
- 9 In what country did Silent Night originate?
- 13 What type of Christmas tree is a homonym?
- 14 What country is the Poinsettia, with its red and green foliage, native to?
- 15 Which country is Eggnog said to have originated from?
- 16 What measurement of temperature is used in Sophie's recipes?

**Check next issue for the answers!**

Find *The Observer* online (and in full color) by joining our Google Classroom with this code:  
**s7w6g7**

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** There are games in the cafeteria provided by the School Improvement Team! Feel free to help yourself (they are in the drawer underneath the microwave). Please make sure to take care of the games so others can enjoy them too!

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To make an acknowledgement in the next issue, contact a member of the *Observer* staff or fill out the form found [here](#).