

★ The Nativity Star ★

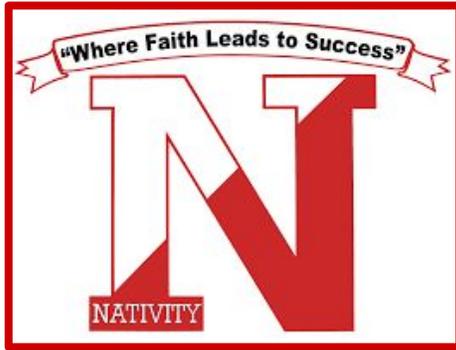
Shining Light on the Best of Nativity

2020 January 17th

7th Edition

Nativity of Our Lord School

Orchard Park, NY



Upcoming Events

January

- 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
-no school
- 22: Dress Down \$1**
- 23: Last day to order The Shirt**
- 31: Progress Reports**
- 31: All School Mass**

Staff

Faculty Advisor:
Mrs. Pallante

Editor:
Addison Barth

Assistant Editor:
Amelia Cook

Sports Editors:
Noah DeAngelis
Patrick Enright

Art Editors:
Delaney Gradwell
Hannah Makin

What's the Difference?

By Sam Morreale

Have you ever wondered what the difference between our American currency and Canadian currency is? Well, they differ in many different ways. One way in which American money differs from Canadian currency is its worth. The Canadian dollars come in fives, tens, twenties, fifties, and hundreds but do not come in ones like American dollars. American coins and Canadian coins also differ in names such as the Canadian loonie, which is worth one dollar, the toonie worth two dollars and the American half dollars and dollar coins. Although they might be worth a dollar in one country, they become different in the other. For example, the American dollar is worth one dollar and thirty cents in Canada while the Canadian dollar is only worth seventy-seven cents in the United States. Although you might think that buying things in Canada is a lot cheaper, it isn't. The prices are higher which makes Canadian and American products cost about the same. The American currency and Canadian currency differ from coin to dollar, what it's worth, and their names.



5th Grade Class

Australian Wildfires

By Caroline Tucker

In southeastern Australia, there are nearly 200 fires burning, and it is starting to affect areas all around the globe. The smoke is polluting the air as far as South America and New Zealand, which is almost 1,000 miles from Australia's southeast coast, has had snow on its mountain tops turn brown. Skies are filling with smoke and are turning an eerie shade of orange. The air is filled with ash and soot and was declared unhealthy for people with health issues. Because of these fires, Australia has experienced its driest year ever and the hottest day on record in Sydney was 120 degrees. People and wildlife are trying to escape the blazes and the wildfires have reduced the koala population significantly. With nine deaths and over 1,000 homes ruined, the severity of the fires has attracted attention from multiple celebrities such as Kylie Jenner, Chris Hemsworth, and Elton John who have donated money to help.

Help support the eighth grade class!

Show your school spirit and support the eighth grade by purchasing a t-shirt. If you decide to buy one, you will be able to wear it to school instead of your uniform on special dress-down days!

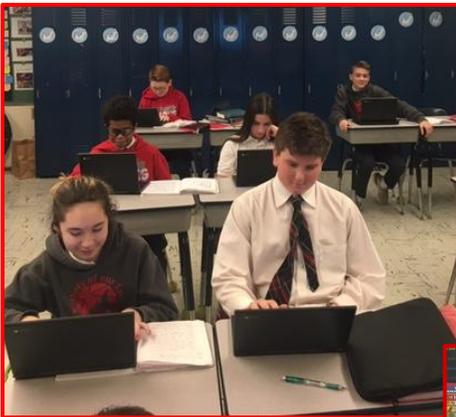


Orders are due by January 23

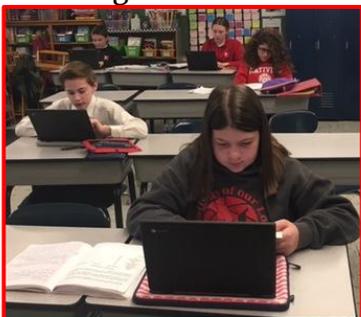
Tristan Strong Punches A Hole In The Sky

By Aidan Pacholec

Tristan Strong Punches A Hole In The Sky is an action-packed book from a world of stories. It is written by Kwame Mbalia and presented by Rick Riordan, so it is similar to other books from Riordan. When Tristan Strong's friend, Eddie, dies in an accident, his journal starts glowing. Tristan is at his grandparents' house when a small doll called Gum Baby steals the journal and Tristan decides to chase after the only thing left of his friend. This event leads to a tear forming in the ground that sucks them up and takes them to the world of Alke where stories and folktales come to life. This life has been disturbed by a dark force, the Maafa. The force was awakened by the hole in the sky made by Tristan's arrival. The Maafa commands beings called bone ships and fetterlings which take people from Alke to the Maafa's lair. Tristan has to go with legends from stories to stop the Maafa from destroying all of Alke by getting a story box. A story box is the entire culture of a society. This would be an offer to the god of stories, Anansi, to close the hole in the sky, cut off the Maafa from its source of power, and get back to his own world. Anyone who enjoys books written by Rick Riordan would enjoy this as it uses different mythology but keeps an interesting story for the reader to enjoy.



Seventh graders working on their writing in ELA.



Behind the Scenes

By Addison Barth

Have you ever considered the many factors that contribute to your learning experience? You probably already acknowledge the hard work your teachers complete to help you learn. But what about other elements that affect the average school day here at Nativity? Students often take many of them for granted. "Maintenance is behind the scenes," says Mike King, Facilities Manager. "If the heat didn't work, you guys probably wouldn't be in school, especially this time of year. If the lights were out in your classroom you wouldn't be able to see." Here at Nativity, we have experienced and hard workers that indirectly take care of us. "You don't even realize that the day before your chair might have been broken, and I might have a new chair for you the next day. You're not actually seeing things being done, but they're being done," says King.

Another thing that influences the school day is health. If you are sick on a school day, you don't have the opportunity to learn that day. This could affect your understanding of the lesson or material your class is learning. "As kids, you touch everything," says George Olivera, manager of the floor-cleaning crew at our school. "If you're sick at home, you bring it here. You touch a doorknob; twenty other kids touch a doorknob. We're at the front line as far as 'sick' goes because we try to clean it in order not to spread the germs." Everyday objects at school such as water fountains and desks become health hazards. However, you need to know more things for this job than just how to clean. You need to have knowledge about chemicals so that you don't burn yourself. Be thankful for these people in your lives!



Second Grade Class

New Year's Around the World

By Nicholas Szpylman

New Years is a very widely celebrated holiday. But with a very wide variety of cultures and beliefs around the world, traditions and holidays, like New Year's, often vary. For example, In Spain, it is common to eat 12 grapes – one at each stroke of the clock at midnight on New Year's Eve. Each grape represents good luck for one month of the coming year. In bigger cities like Madrid and Barcelona, people gather in the main squares to eat their grapes together and pass around bottles of cava. In Greece, families hang onions on their door, symbolizing rebirth in the new year. Additionally, parents often wake their children on New Year's Day by tapping an onion on their heads. In Scotland, Hogmanay is celebrated as their new year. And unlike New Year's Day in America, in Scotland, it is celebrated on December 31st, as they follow the Gregorian calendar. Hogmanay is characterized by the concept of "first footing," or the "first foot" in the house after midnight. Similar to Scotland, New Year's in Vietnam is also characterized by "first footing." Although, Tet, Vietnamese New Year's Day, is celebrated on January 25th, setting it apart from Hogmanay. And there are thousands more New Year's traditions around the world, all reflections of the cultures that celebrate them. And the same goes for other holidays.

Golden Globes 2020

By Avery Walker

Last Sunday, the Golden Globes took place at the Beverly Hilton Hotel near Hollywood. The event was hosted by Ricky Gervais, a stand-up comedian, actor, and writer who had hosted the show 4 times before. Nominees in the Golden Globes, which has celebrated the best in film and television since 1944, included actors such as Jennifer Aniston and movies such as *Once Upon A Time In Hollywood* and *Joker*. Many of the winners, such as Phoebe Waller-Bridge (*Fleabag*) and Joaquin Phoenix (*Joker*), gave head-turning speeches. Ellen Degeneres was presented with the Carol Burnett Award for her incredible contribution to talk shows and comedy. Overall, the 2020 Golden Globes was a great show!



Nativity Sports



Nativity Boys 8th Basketball Improves to

12-0

by Charlie Graber

The Nativity 8th grade boys basketball continued their strong start to the season with a dominant win over Notre Dame on January 5, 2020. The game was the first league and home game for the Nativity Warriors. From the opening tip, Nativity dominated offensively and defensively. Nativity used a man press to stifle Notre Dame which helped Nativity jump out to a quick 10-2 lead. By playing tough defense and grabbing defensive rebounds, Nativity was able to get the ball up the court quick in transition. This led to quick and easy baskets. On offense, Nativity used a 5-out motion offense to break Notre Dame's 2-3 zone. Through quick ball movement and cuts, Nativity was unstoppable on offense. At the end of the first half, Nativity led 30-8. In the second half, Nativity began to spread the ball around so that all players had a chance to score. They also began to fine tune new plays for the upcoming series of tournaments they are playing in. When the final buzzer sounded, Nativity won 50-17. The points leaders for the game were Patrick Benzer with 10 points, Andrew Reeb, Jack Miranda, and Charlie Graber all had 8 points, Aidan Pacholec and Kevin Cosgrove had 6 points each, and Teddy Ciancio added 4 points. Ryan Seeriter also dominated defensively grabbing rebounds and blocking shots. Overall, it was a great team win that Nativity hopes will give them momentum going into a tough part of their schedule.



Eighth Grade Boys' Team

Can the Nativity Warriors Come Back?

by Sienna Schlee

The girls varsity basketball team, consisting of 7th and 8th graders, had a game on Tuesday, January 7, at Saint John Vianney. The players; Grace Cullinan, Genevieve Ricci, Lexi Morgan, Sydney Schoen, Hailee Johnson, Ella Ignatius, Amelia Lazzara, and Sienna Schlee all played hard. They were down by a great deal of points in the first half, therefore to win, they needed a big comeback. They knew what they had to do. During the second half of the game the girls came really close. The Warriors focused in by starting to score more points and play better defence. They made a big comeback but it wasn't enough to win the game. They came close but the Warriors lost the game 22-35.

Buffalo Bills in the Playoffs

by Ryan Seereiter

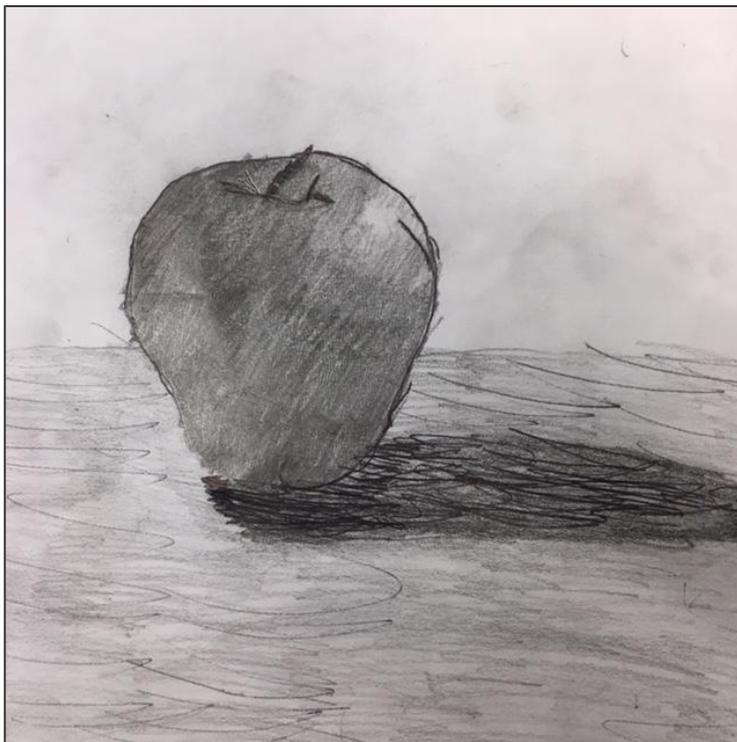
The Buffalo Bills fell short to the Houston Texans in their loss in the first round of the playoffs. This Bills were up with a commanding lead of 16-0 until the Texans scored 19 unanswered points to take the lead with 4 minutes and 52 seconds left in the fourth quarter. The bills fought back to tie the game at 19-19 with 1 minutes and 11 seconds left. The game went into overtime but the bills fell sort and lost 19-21. In the game Josh Allen went 24/46 for 264 yards. John Brown also threw a 16 yard pass to Josh Allen that was completed for a touchdown. Josh Allen also had 9 carries for 92 yards. In rushing Devin Singletary had 13 carries for 58 yards. Singletary also lead the team in catches with 6 for 76 yards. John Brown had 4 receptions for 50 yards. On the defensive side Jerry Hughes lead the team in sacks with 3. Tremaine Edmunds and Matt Milano lead the team in tackles with 8 and also 4 assists. Stephen Hauschka went 4/4 scoring 13 points. His longest kick was 49 yards. All in all it was a disappointing loss for the Buffalo Bills in the first round of the 2020 NFL Playoffs.



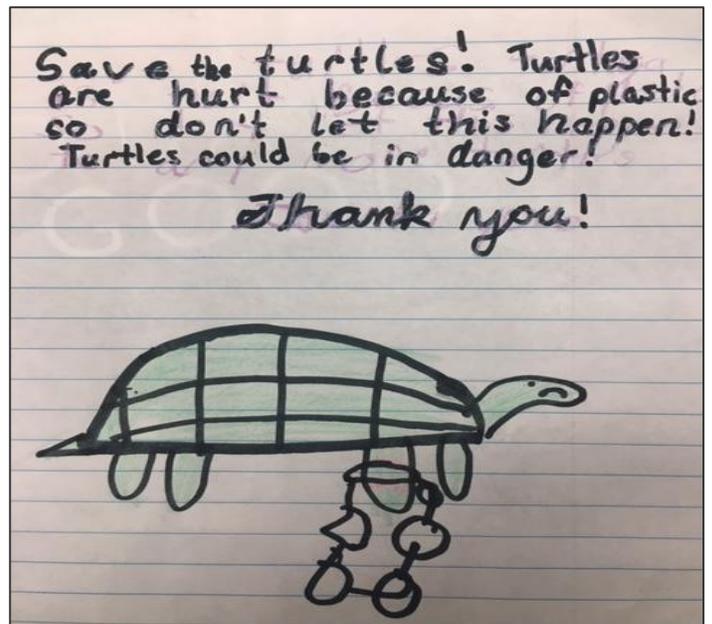
Penguin Art by Lola Phillips, Grade 2



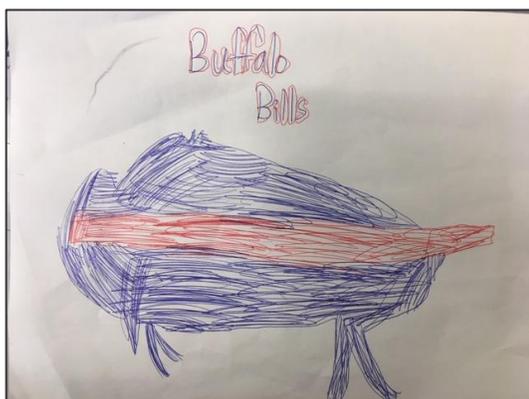
Plant Art by Delaney Gradwell, Grade 6



Apple by Caroline Fitzpatrick, Grade 2



Turtle by Amalia Wehrmister, Grade 2



Buffalo Bills by Paige Krol, Grade 2

Art by Nativity