

School News

NMS Takes A Trip Around The World

By Corey H.

Instead of a traditional holiday party this year, The New Middle School students will be hosting an International Fair.

At the beginning of the school year each student was given a country to research. After months of hard work, students will get the chance to show off the results of their labor. Parents will be invited and students will take them through the fair which will feature food, art and information from each country prepared and created by the students.

The event will take place on Friday, December 16th in the project room. Parents will receive a personal invitation created by their child informing them of when to come.

When asked why an International Fair was chosen over a holiday party, Social Studies teacher, Ms. Jeanette said, "It is something different and more educational."

Our hope is that this will be a world of fun for all!



Kathleen and Taylor work on an Argentinean project for the International Fair.



Picture by Corey J.

Peace on Earth

The holidays are a time to slow down and enjoy the sights and sounds of happiness and joy. It is also a time when people send out wishes of peace on earth. This is such a vast concept that sometimes it feels as though it could never be achieved. But the pursuit of peace may not be so far out of our reach. The students of The New Middle School show you that peace is a very attainable thing that can be achieved through some of the simpler things of life and you don't have to experience this wonderful feeling only during the holidays. So here are some poetic descriptions of peace right here on earth!

- "Peace is a happy family." Brianna
- "Peace is getting a hug from my mom." Corey J.
- "Peace is eating ice cream in a cool breeze." Jacob
- "Peace is joking with my dad." Joel
- "Peace is drawing." Ace
- "Peace is eating good sushi." Robert
- "Peace is dancing." Taylor Sibley
- "Peace is giving to others." Kathleen
- "Peace is a cheese pizza." Corey H.
- "Peace is a new computer or video game." Matthew C.
- "Peace is working on the computer." Christopher
- "Peace is spending time with my family, and making new friends." Matthew A.
- "Peace is playing basketball." Jake



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The New Middle School provides an alternative educational experience and social-emotional support for bright children.

Pictures By Brianna



CULTURE

The Festival of Lights

By Jacob

Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of the month of Kislev in the Jewish calendar.

A Hanukkah tradition is the lighting of the Menorah, a special arrangement of nine candles. The highest candle is called the Shamash which is used to light the other candles. A candle is lit for each of the eight nights of Hanukkah.

A tasty tradition is the yummy treat of latkes, a potato pancake dipped in applesauce or sour cream. Let's not forget the exciting game of Driedel which is played with real and chocolate coins.

So light the lights and have a Happy Hanukkah!

Happy Christmas

By Nathan

Christmas is a winter holiday celebrated each year on December 25th. People buy Christmas trees and decorate them with lights and ornaments. Stockings are hung in hopes that Santa Clause will fill them with special treats. Gifts and cards are exchanged and families and friends get together for good food and fun.

Other traditions include baking Christmas cookies, singing Christmas songs and watching Christmas movies on television and the reading of the classic story, *The Night Before Christmas*.

So as the story goes...Merry Christmas to all and to all a goodnight!

The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa

By Corey J.

Kwanzaa is a holiday that celebrates the rich heritage of Africa. It starts on December 26th and lasts for seven days. There is a different principle for each day of Kwanzaa.

- Umoja-unity**
Living together peacefully as a family and community
- Kujichagulia-self-determination**
Making goals and working to achieve them.
- Ujima-collective work and responsibility**
Working together to take care of our neighborhoods
- Ujamaa-cooperative economics**
The value of owning and operating a business
- Nia-purpose**
Being the best you can be!
- Kuumba-creativity**
Doing something in a unique way
- Imanji-faith**
Believing in ourselves and others

Newspaper

Staff

Matthew A.
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Jacob
Corey J.
Brianna
Kathleen
Robert
Joel
Jake
Ace
Taylor

Arts & Entertainment

Houston Holiday Happenings

By Christopher

There's no place like home for the holidays, and if Houston's your home, you're in luck! Throughout December you can take part in many holiday celebrations without going too far or spending too much.

You can head south to the Annual Christmas Boat Parade in Clear Lake. Spend the day enjoying the Kemah Boardwalk and when the sun goes down you can watch the festively decorated boats sail through Galveston Bay. This free seaside getaway will be oceans of fun!

For a real winter experience, head to the Ice Rink at the Woodlands Town Center. Skaters are entertained by a giant DVD television screen displaying holiday images. The cost is a cool \$9.95 per 2 hours. This ice is nice!

Finally, you can get in touch with your wild side by going to the Houston Zoo's Winter Wild Festival. Make winter animal crafts. Decorate and eat delicious sugar cookies. Then play in real snow in the winter wonderland that is decked out with a beautiful light display. Don't forget to drop off your holiday wish list to Safari Santa. Enjoy this wild adventure all for the cost of zoo admission.

Holiday Movie Releases

By Joel

You want to make the most out of your holiday dollar? This holiday season don't waste your money on the rest spend your money on the best.

For hilarious family fun, go see Cheaper by the Dozen 2. The Bakers go on vacation and find themselves in a battle with another family. In theatres on December 21st.

Rated PG



If you're feeling adventurous, you could head to Peter Jackson's remake of King Kong. The director that brought you Lord of The Rings takes you to the big apple to experience a 500 ton Giant Ape. Coming to theatres on December 14th

Rated PG13



Last but definitely not least, a must see, is the movie version of the classic book, Chronicles of Narnia "The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe." C.S Lewis' epic masterpiece about a group of children who find a wardrobe that transports them to the magical world of Narnia. Starts December 9th.

Rated PG



Girl Talk



Oprah Winfrey...Someone To Talk

About

By Kathleen

Talk show host Oprah Winfrey is celebrating her 20th anniversary as the queen of daytime television. Her first show debuted in 1986 and she has been # 1 ever since! Oprah's popularity comes from her genuine desire to help people live their best lives. She does this by producing shows that send a positive message in a sea of talk shows that are less than positive.

Oprah has used her fame and her show to get people reading again by creating the Oprah Book Club. She has helped thousands through her charitable organizations like The Oprah Winfrey Foundation, which awards hundreds of grants to organizations that support women, children and families in America and across the globe.

On November 21st Oprah hosted her favorite things show, which she showcases all of her favorite things of the year, then gives these things to all the audience members. This year the lucky recipients were all Hurricane Katrina relief workers. They all went home with everything from designer handbags to laptop computers!

This woman who was told she would never make it because she was a woman, too fat and African American has proven to herself and the world that anything is possible if you just believe in yourself and you live your life with purpose.



Talk Show Host Oprah Winfrey

The Ace Files

I Wasn't Speeding, the Earth Just Rotated Slower

By: Ace

Grab a pencil: It's time for a quiz! According to the U.S. Department of Motor Vehicles, which of the following are actual excuses given by people caught breaking the law while behind the wheel:

1. A red light means *stop*? You know, I never knew that.
2. I would have put on the brakes, but my cat was asleep in my lap and I didn't want to disturb him.
3. I just wanted to see if my speedometer was accurate when I go *really* fast.
4. I was in a hurry to get home. My dog was having an epileptic fit.
5. I'm not wearing a seat belt because my arm is broken.
6. I was driving my bike at 125 mph because the sun was setting and it's dangerous to drive a motorcycle at night.

Which ones are real excuses? Answer: They *all* are. They're just not real good excuses. Drive carefully now. And remember, red means stop.

Features

**Monkey Business
A Fine Art**

By Corey H.

What do you get when you cross an ape with a tube of paint? A priceless work of art! The orangutans at the San Diego Zoo in California have created six extraordinary masterpieces that are going for big bucks.

The artwork could be the result of paint eating monkeys. However it came to be, the pieces were auctioned off in November. The money went to save orangutans around the world.

In London, something similar happened when Congo the Chimp sold 3 works of art painted nearly 50 years ago for nearly EUR 12,000. Congo is said to have done 400 painted in his lifetime. Some were so good even Picasso owned one. I guess you could say the art world has really evolved.

