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The New School in the Heights provides an alternative educational experience and social-emotional support for
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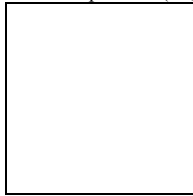
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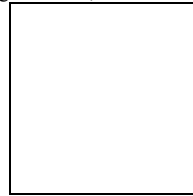
Students Prepare for the Leonardo Da Vinci Festival

By Rachel

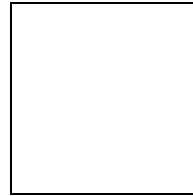
Throughout the year students have been learning about Leonardo Da Vinci and his incredible work. Now it is your chance to learn about this amazing Renaissance man. December 19th The New School in the Heights will be hosting a Leonardo Da Vinci Festival. You will get to see reports and essays about Da Vinci. You will even see models of some of his inventions. There will also be food from the Renaissance period! (So, it was made during that time, but we recreated some recipes!)



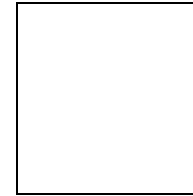
Rachel paints a Renaissance castle.



Patrick builds an Orthinopter.



Anna-Noel puts some final touches on her Trebuchet.
(Da Vinci catapult)



Jude reads about Leonardo Da Vinci's Flying Machine

Happy Holidays

Peace On Earth

By Erin

Peace on Earth means something different to everybody. Peace to me means when everybody is calm and content and getting along. Many people believe that peace on earth is possible.

During the holiday season, peace becomes a priority to many people. It could be peace within a family, within a community, or even within our world.

In many families all the members don't always get along. Christmas brings families together. This time of year makes people think about peace on earth. People use prayer to find inner peace.

Religious communities seek peace during the advent season. People attend church and temple to hear the word of peace.

Peace is found in giving to others; a smile to a stranger, a meal to the hungry, or clothing to the poor. These are all signs of peace on earth.

Hanukkah

By Jacob

Have you ever heard of the Jewish holiday Hanukkah? Well, the holiday started when the Maccabees had enough oil for one day, but it lasted for eight days! Since then we have a holiday that lasts eight days. On this holiday we give thanks to God for everything by saying prayers.

Hanukkah also means presents for each of the eight days. We also have food like the potato pancake...yum, yum! Like Christmas our family comes together on these special days.

My favorite part is when we play Dreidel, tops with Jewish symbols. It is really fun! After the prayers we drink grape juice and then we finally open the presents.

Christmas

By Jordan P.

Christmas is a holiday celebrated by Christians all around the world. I celebrate Christmas and I am sure some of you do too. My favorite part is putting up the tree and decorating the house. Most of all I love the warm feeling you get inside of you. I also like baking Christmas cookies. It is so much fun.

In my neighborhood has a snow day. The street is covered in special imported snow for all of us Houstonians to have a real white Christmas. Right here in the school's neighborhood is Holiday in the Heights. You can enjoy the festive decorations in the Heights and it is free!

Whatever you celebrate...have a happy holiday!

Kwanzaa

By Anna-Noel

What is Kwanzaa? Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday and many African-Americans celebrate it all around the world. It helps them remember and honor their culture.

Kwanzaa was first celebrated in December of 1966.

What is Kwanzaa like? Well, it is a lot like Christmas and Hanukkah. People exchange gifts with each other, and they have candles used as symbols like Hanukkah. Kwanzaa lasts for seven days from December 26 to January 1st.

There are seven candles which represent the seven principles of Kwanzaa which are;

Kwanzaa is a time for families to think about their culture and how they want to live. They pass down family traditions and treasures.

Kwanzaa is all about taking pride in the African heritage.

Features

Harvard

By Matthew

Harvard is a great school. It is known as one of the best schools in the world. Why is it considered so great? Well, it has great teachers. Like Dr. Manning who taught there.

Harvard is located in Massachusetts. If you want to go to Harvard you would have to work very hard and make good grades.

If you do attend Harvard you are sure to have a great future. You may even become the President of the United States. Many of America's presidents attended Harvard. Such as, John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Rutherford Hayes, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, and George W. Bush.

So as you think about your future, consider Harvard University.

Giving

By Amanda

Every Christmas my mom and I go to Huan center which is a place for kids that can not afford much or that are without their parents, or disabled in some way. We volunteer our time to serve them tasty food and give them presents. We do this to show them that they are special no matter what happened to them in the past or what their circumstance may be.

Giving is a great way to share the joy of the holiday season.

Chess

By Joel

There are many whimsical stories about the origins of chess, but my favorite is this one.

A queen chases one of her sons to be the heir of the thrown. When the son was assassinated the royal court needed a way to convey the information without any problems. So an official asked a philosopher what to do. The philosopher thought for three long days and finally said, "Bring a carpenter of wood; white and black." The carpenter was brought and he was to carve pieces to represent the highest of the royal court, as well as a 64 square board. The philosophers taught the rules of the new game and began play. The new game spread quickly and became quite popular, so much so that the queen herself asked for a demonstration. The philosopher played and checkmated the opponent. Apparently, the queen got the intended message and said, "My son is dead."

Ancient Wonders of the World

By Robert

The Seven Ancient Wonders of the World Part 2- The Colossus of Rhodes
The Colossus of Rhodes was a gigantic statue modeled after the Greek god Helios which was built by the Greek island of Rhodes Between 292 and 280 BC.

In its time the Colossus of Rhodes was the tallest statue in the world measuring over 10 feet high. The statue is built standing on two marble pedestals, one on each side of the harbor. The statue was built to celebrate a victory between Rhodes and Antigonos I Monophthalmus. The statue stood only 54 years before it was destroyed by an earthquake and snapped at the knees, falling backwards onto the city instead of falling forward into the ocean.



Airplanes

By Patrick

The 747 first commercial flights were in 1970. It probably is the most identifiable aircraft ever because of the second story hump. The 747 has logged over 35 billion miles. That would be like going to the moon 75,000 times. The entire fleet of 747s has carried 3.5 billion people roughly half of the world's population. It is an amazing aircraft and my favorite.

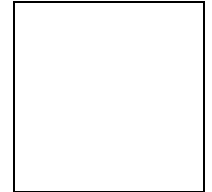
Hannah Montana

By Mara

Hannah Montana is not just a pop star, she is Miley Cyrus. Hannah Montana is the character she plays on her Disney Channel television show.

Miley Cyrus was born in Franklin, Tennessee. She is the daughter of Billy Ray Cyrus. He also plays her father on Hannah Montana. You might have also seen him on Dancing with the Stars.

Miley Cyrus is a singer and actress and she is loved by people all over the world.



Hot Toys

By Robert

This holiday season kids are asking for all sorts of toys. A major thing that seems to be on the lists are gaming consoles. Games like the Wii and ps3. The ps3 is just like an upgraded version of the ps2. What makes the Wii unique is its motion sensing controller.

Some things will never change like kids asking for skateboards except that the skateboard is the Ripstick. It's a board where you twist certain sections of it with your feet to make it go.

On young girls' list there might be something from the new line of Barbie's like the holiday Barbie doll.

This year the remote control vehicles got interesting with the introduction of two new all terrain vehicles, Terrainiac and the Tyco r/c Air Blade. The Tyco r/c Air Blade is like a jet with fans on the bottom that allows it to hover and go over anything (even Water). Terrainiac is like a car with three wheels. Two in the front and a giant ball shaped one in the back. It can go over any terrain and when it gets into water it uses its back wheels to propel it forward.

Now you have some more choices of things to add to your Christmas list.

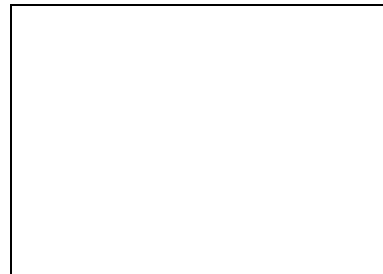
Hairstyles

By Lauren

Hair can be a challenge, or your pride. You can change the color, the shape, and other things. For example, one day on the way home from school I saw a man on a moped with pink hair...what a sight to see. You can change your hair to fit your personality, or just for fun.

Getting highlights changes the color of your hair and it can take a while to grow back.

Hairstyles have changed over the years and will continue to change in the future. So, don't feel too bad if you are having a bad hair day, you can always just change your style tomorrow!



Advice

By Kyle

Do you have a friend that is bugging you or just doesn't want to be your friend anymore? Well, I have some advice.

- Ask why that person doesn't want to be your friend anymore. If he found someone else, you don't deserve a friend like that.
- If he hates you because you did something wrong, try to make amends.

I hope this advice can help!