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

Innovation Nation is a Success

The NSH students prepared all semester for their annual winter festival. This year's event was all about American inventors. Innovation Nation took place on Friday, December 19th. The students eagerly awaited the day to show family and friends their projects that ranged from building cities from boxes, creating inventions of their own and computer power point presentations.



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CHANUKAH

By Joshua P.

One of the Jewish holidays around Christmas is called Chanukah. The Greeks attacked the Jews and destroyed their temple of worship. Then, the Jews got together an army called the Maccabees. Though they were truly outnumbered, they defeated the Greeks and destroyed their house of worship.

On Chanukah, we give and get gifts from other people. One of the main gifts is called gelt or money. Gelt is money on the outside and chocolate on the inside. To remember that day we light a menorah or oil lamp every day for eight days. A menorah looks like this.

On Chanukah, we eat many different foods for different reasons. The main reasons we eat some of the foods is because they are cooked in oil. We eat foods cooked in oil to commemorate the miracle of the oil. The miracle was when the people in the temple of holiness lit the menorah it burned for eight days instead of one. Some of the foods are latkes, sufganiot and much more.



Christmas

By Anthony & Brandon

Christmas is the time of year that families come together and celebrate. Most people like Christmas, because of presents and family. I like it when it snows, because that gets me into the Christmas spirit. Of course, snow is not a common occurrence in Houston.

When purchasing Christmas presents, you definitely need to know what the person wants when shopping. If you give a man a present; then I would give him golf clubs, chocolate, or coffee. A boy always wants video games, money, gift cards, and candy!

Ideas for a woman's present are makeup, earrings (you have to know if they like clip-on's or not), or get her tea. Giving a young girl a present is fun, because there is plenty to buy her. For example, you can purchase dolls, Hannah Montana gifts, Power Wheels (Dora), My Little Pony, Littlest Pet Shop, Polly Pocket, purses, or jewelry.

A baby present is easy, because they always need diapers, stuffed toys, soft blankets, sippy cups, rattles, cute clothes, Elmo, Pooh Bear, Teletubbies, potty training set, and walkers.

It's time to open present Merry Christmas. Ho Ho Ho!



Kwanzaa

By Jacob H.

Once again, it's Kwanzaa. This is the 7 day celebration of Nguzo Saba. It happens once a year in December.

The first day is about unity of family and the basket of fruit is the symbol for the first day.

Day two is about self-determination and straw mats are the symbol for this day. Family and friends come to visit and say Harambee!

Day three is a time to work together and make the Kinara, a wooden candle holder.

Day four celebrates the principle of sharing. This is a time to go to market and by the symbol of corn!

Day 5 is about purpose. This is a time to exchange handmade gifts for family.

Day six is about creativity. This is also a time to drink from the Unity Cup and sing *I've Got Spirit*.

Day seven the final day of Kwanzaa all seven candles of the Kinara are lit and that is Kwanzaa!

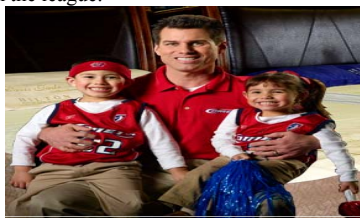
Houston Comets Leaving Houston

By Austin

The Hilton Furniture and Mattress owner, Hilton Koch is a corporate sponsor of The Houston Comets and has been for years. Now, the WNBA team up for sale and no one is stepping forward with the money to buy the team. He purchased the franchise for approximately 10 million dollars on January 31, 2007. But in July of this year, Koch took a step back and signed over control of the team to the WNBA.

The bombshell fell when the league suspended Comets' operations. This means the franchise that won the first four WNBA titles and became an instant dynasty may be no more!

When Koch began his sponsorship he boosted ticket sales, but when he had not broken even midway through the 2008 season, he sought advice from the league.



Hilton Koch & his children in their Comets gear!

The Pearl Harbor Raid December 7, 1941

By Cathy

The Pearl Harbor Raid started on December 17, 1941. It was a Japanese raid that took place at United States naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. It sunk a lot of ships such as ones from Utah, Arizona, and Honolulu. It took away more than 2,000 lives. What happened was a Japanese force under the command of Admiral Chuichi Nagumo launched the biggest surprise attack in history. They launched 350 aircraft in two waves that damaged the U.S. Pacific Fleet when it laid in Pearl Harbor Hawaii.

The Japanese wanted to expand their territory into Malaya and the Dutch East Indies, and the U.S. would not let them. It was also preventing the U.S. Pacific Fleet from interfering with the war the Japanese were planning on waging in Southeast Asia. Because of some errors, the war became a sneak attack. The U.S. became angry and fought back. The U.S. eventually won.

Animal Abuse

By Jordan P.

Did you know that 95% out of every 1000 animals in the USA are abused?!? I've seen so many animals been abused in my life. It's horrible! I think something should be done. If you want to help out with animal abuse, then go to www.WSPA-USA.org/animalsmatter

I own a dog that has been abused before, and was taken away by the SPCA and was on the show Houston SPCA on the channel animal planet. Anyway back to the story, over 10 million animals were found abused last year. Notice how I said the word "found." That means about 20 million animals were abused.

The History of the Poinsettia

By Erin

The poinsettia is the flower of December. The plants association with Christmas is from a legend which originated in 16th century Mexico. The legend tells a story of a young girl who was too poor to provide a gift for the celebration of Jesus' birthday. The tale goes on to tell that the child was inspired by an angel to gather weeds from the roadside and place them in front of the church altar. Crimson blossoms sprouted from the weeds and became beautiful poinsettias.

Today most people decorate their homes with these beautiful plants for the Christmas season. In the United States, December 12th is National Poinsettia Day.

Toy Hall of Fame

By John & Rachel

The National Toy Hall of Fame is a hall of fame that recognizes toys and games that have been popular for years. The hall of fame is located in Rochester, New York at the Strong National Museum of Play. So far forty two toys have been inducted into the hall of fame. Toys that have been introduced into the hall of fame include: Barbie, LEGO, etch-a-sketch, slinky, and a cardboard box. This year's inductees include the baby doll, the skateboard, and surprisingly the stick.

The Emperor's Birthday

By Christopher

The Emperor's Birthday is a very special day for Japan and some other countries. On December 23, 1933, Emperor Akihito was born; but he did not gain the throne until December 23, 1989 when his father died. Instead of going to school inside of the palace grounds, he went to a school for normal children. The holiday is very ceremonial within the Japanese islands. Akihito grew up to shock the nation by marrying Michiko Hirohito, who was a commoner. On his birthday he goes to the palace grounds on the balcony and he gives a five minute speech.

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog

By Jacob W.

Despite being very large the Greater Swiss Mountain dog is very agile. It is a bold, faithful, willing dog that has an expression that is animated and gentle. It is the oldest of the Swiss breeds and was bred to pull carts. It is a large powerful, confident, dog with a sturdy appearance. If you are looking for a dog and come across a greater Swiss mountain dog, I'd highly recommend it.



Virus

By Joel

A virus (Latin; *virus* meaning *toxic* or *poison*) is a sub-microscopic agent that is unable to produce outside the host cell. The first known virus, "Tobacco Mosaic Virus", was discovered by Martinus Beijerinck in 1899. Now more than 5,000 viruses have been discovered and described. They are about 100 times smaller than bacteria. Viruses attach onto the host cell, break the cell wall, replicate, and then completely destroy the cell and move on to the next cell.

Benelux Countries

By Nich

The countries Belgium, Netherlands, Luxemburg make up the Benelux countries. The Netherlands has a GNP of 598.1 and GDP of 420. The population density of the Netherlands is 313 people for every two kilometers. The Netherlands has many metals and energy resources like zinc, natural gas, and deposits of gas.

The second country that makes up the Benelux countries is Belgium. Belgium has a GNP of 373.76 and a GDP of 247. The population density of Belgium is 343 people for every two kilometers. Many metals like tin, lead, copper, and coal are found in Belgium.

The third country that makes up the Benelux countries is Luxemburg. Luxemburg has a GNP of 29.98 and a GDP of 20.6. The currency is the Euro. The population density is 176 people for every two kilometers. Metals like iron and steel can be found in Luxemburg.

Ella Enchanted

By Baylee

Ella Enchanted is about a girl who has been cursed by a fairy named Lucinda. Then Ella was set off on a journey to find her fairy godmother. Then Ella had met a prince named Charmont. The author of Ella Enchanted is Gail Carson Levine. There was also a movie; the girl who played Ella was Anne Hathaway. In the movie Ella got married to the prince, and the curse was off!