

By: Mia Hernandez and Hailey Heffelfinger

**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year**

Need Help With A Problem?

If you or a friend are experiencing any difficulties with school or home or anything that keeps you from learning, contact a Student Assistance Program Team member or fill out a referral form and drop in one of the boxes located outside the middle school office or the high school nurse's office. The Student Assistance Program Team can help remove those barriers that keep you from learning and enjoying school.

DOGS

By: Nashira Lee Astor Roman

Dogs are like humans. They eat, drink, play, sleep, and some learn stuff. Some dogs are hard to train, some are easy. When I think of dogs, I think of my dog. My dog is black and little but not all dogs are black or little. They can be black and white, yellow, brown, and more colors. They can be little, big and more sizes. Some people say dogs don't have feelings but that's not true. Dogs do have feelings. Just like humans, they can be sad, happy, angry, scared, disgusted, jealous and more. Some people say dogs cannot talk but the truth is, dogs can talk but not like us. Dogs talk by barking. I asked people if they agreed that dogs can talk. Some people agreed with me and some did not. Some people say dogs and cats do not get along. I do not know about you, but I say some dogs and cats get along and some don't. I say this because I have a dog and cat and sometimes they get along and sometimes they don't. When they don't, I get scared and sad to see or hear them fight.

Student of the Month

Congratulations to the eighth grade Elks Students of the Month for October

Jordan Karmonick and Anthony Merchlinsky

The Best Christmas Gifts

By: Amanda Young



What is the best Christmas gift you ever received? When I asked my friends and teachers, this is what they said...

Tabbatha Ward: A puppy.

Michael Styka: Ipad

Myla Wall: Ipad

Tevin Walsh: XBOX1

Carmen Woodring: Legos

Noah Streisel: PS3

Aiden Stevens: Seahawks jersey

Avery Peel: Ipad

Olivia Paulukonis: electric scooter

Anna Wargo: Ipad

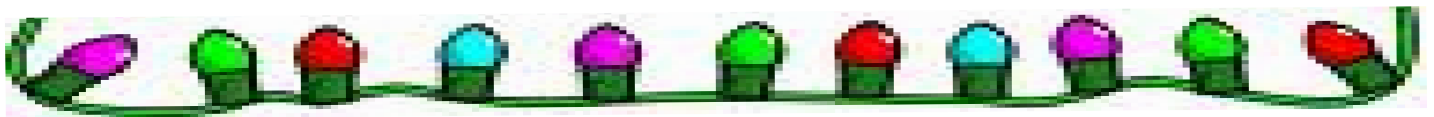
Mrs. Kern: her special blanket

Mr. Zack: Trip to Disney

Students in grades 5-8 who would like to contribute to the next issue of the Paw Print should see Ms. Scicchitano in the high school art room any morning during remediation.

Christmas Music Quiz: Name That Song

1. "Round yon virgin mother and child":
 - a. Jingle Bells
 - b. Silent Night
 - c. I'll Be Home For Christmas
 - d. We Three Kings
2. "Bearing gifts we traverse afar":
 - a. Jingle Bells
 - b. Silent Night
 - c. I'll Be Home For Christmas
 - d. We Three Kings
3. "And Heaven and nature sing":
 - a. Away in a Manger
 - b. Joy to the World
 - c. While Shepherds Watched
 - d. White Christmas
4. "'Tis the season to be jolly":
 - a. Deck the Halls
 - b. While Shepherds Watched
 - c. Jingle Bells
 - d. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
5. "God and sinners reconciled":
 - a. O Come O Come Emmanuel
 - b. O come All Ye Faithful
 - c. Hark the Herald Angels
 - d. The First Noel
6. "Disperse the gloomy clouds of night":
 - a. O Come All Ye Faithful
 - b. O Come O Come Emmanuel
 - c. Hark the Herald Angels
 - d. The First Noel
7. "Joyful and triumphant":
 - a. O Come All Ye Faithful
 - b. Joy to the World
 - c. Deck the Halls
 - d. Ave Maria
8. "Looked down where he lay":
 - a. The First Noel
 - b. Little Town of Bethlehem
 - c. Joy to the World
 - d. Away in a Manger
9. "O tidings of comfort and joy":
 - a. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
 - b. The First Noel
 - c. Ding Dong Merrily on High
 - d. Away in a Manger
10. "On a cold winter's night that was so deep":
 - a. Away in a Manger
 - b. The First Noel
 - c. Ave Maria



100 Years Ago...

The most commonly requested presents from 100 years ago:

1913:

1. Candy
2. Nuts
3. Rocking horse
4. Doll
5. Mittens/gloves
6. Toy train
7. Oranges
8. Books
9. Handkerchiefs
10. Skates

Now take a look at the items topping contemporary lists:

2015:

1. The Pie Face Game
2. Jedi Master Lightsaber
3. Play All Day Elmo
4. Footwelt Mini Self-Balancing 2 Wheel Scooter with LED Light
5. Interactive Remote Control R2 D2 from Star Wars
6. Disney Descendants Villain Mal, Daughter of Maleficent
7. Girl Scout Cookies Deluxe Oven
8. Fisher-Price Bright Beats Dance & Move BeatBo
9. Minion Kevin Banana Eating Action Figure
10. LEGO Scooby Doo Build Your Own Mystery Machine

5th grade Q & A

...learning about Taryn Kapes

By: Mariah Hernandez

...learning about Mariah Hernandez

By: Taryn Kapes

Q: What is your favorite common core class?

A: math

Q: Who is your favorite teacher?

A: Mrs. Leshko

Q: What are your favorite specials?

A: Mrs. Mayberry's and Ms. Scicchitano

Q: What is your favorite thing to do after school?

A: basketball

Q: What is your favorite thing about science?

A: videos

Q: What is your favorite thing about history?

A: learning about the types of Indians

Q: What is your favorite thing about math?

A: multiplying and dividing

Q: What is your favorite thing about reading?

A: reading

Q: What is your favorite thing about ELA?

A: writing

Q: What is your favorite thing about Mrs. Mayberry's class?

A: typing

Q: What is your favorite thing about Ms. Scicchitano's class?

A: clay

Q: What is your favorite thing about Mr. Killian's class?

A: dividing

Q: What is your favorite thing about Mrs. Evancho's class?

A: talking

Q: What is your favorite thing about Mrs. Kern's class?

A: learning about bullying

Q: What is your favorite thing about 5th grade?

A: learning

Q: What is your favorite common core class?

A: history

Q: Who is your favorite teacher?

A: Mrs. Leshko

Q: What are your favorite specials?

A: Mrs. Mayberry and Mr. Killian

Q: What is your favorite sport to do after school?

A: Play basketball

Q: What is your favorite thing about history?

A: learning about the past

Q: What is your favorite thing about science?

A: videos

Q: What is your favorite thing about math?

A: The order of operations

Q: What is your favorite thing about ELA?

A: writing

Q: What is your favorite thing about reading?

A: reading

Q: What is your favorite thing about Mr. Killian's class?

A: division

Q: What is your favorite thing about computers?

A: typing

Q: What is your favorite thing about music?

A: the music

Q: What is your favorite thing about art class?

A: painting

Q: What is your favorite thing about guidance?

A: talking

Q: What is your favorite thing about health class?

A: relaxing techniques

Q: What is your favorite thing about fifth grade?

A: socializing

December

Z D P Q V I V V S D E P C I P G U Q B L
 E A D E G B K A H O T S C O O Z U A E I
 N X V R E B M E C E D I W J L O Q Q A G
 A X U R O T Q V U Q M R J S O D N M U H
 L B A E S I Y U U F N C S E A V U Q T T
 G J U I Z R I Y S O X O E K T X F N I S
 W I R S A E X K B L H Y U A L A V B F F
 G H W U P A T N A S F H R L W N I P U C
 C I N A D Z O F A M I L Y F S N O W L A
 U A R Y E X D G I Q S L H W T T L R H D
 J T B M M N X B Z R Z V E O B O A S Z S
 Y U U J E S N U D H E I V N R E T S R V
 C M S W B J B C Z Y U P E S Y I T J I F
 K O S L S T C U O J U K L M M O E N U C
 W X L Q V T O H J W V W Q A C O E O R M
 K X C C G O N W U V H W U K C R T X V S
 Y L M F G J N E C R S P I A O E A Y K J
 Q Q Z W U Q U K S K C N B X Z B R Q H T
 C E L E B R A T E E G H S Y Y X O U Q L
 I Z U C I P P C G S R D Z U Y T C E V E
 U E J U E Q H M Y E L P T Z A P E X O J
 G X C I Y E K N J C F N I O A L D P O S
 M U P D W A C G X U E Z A W E P C L F R
 V X K M K M C I L R R L R P M O F T W Z
 G T W I N J W W H Z S V K Z V H U U X W

BEAUTIFUL
 CHURCH
 COZY
 DECORATE
 FIREPLACE
 NEW
 SANTA
 STOCKINGS

CELEBRATE
 CLAUS
 CRISP
 EVE
 JANUARY
 PARTY
 SNOW

CHRISTMAS
 COLD
 DECEMBER
 FAMILY
 LIGHTS
 PRESENTS
 SNOWFLAKES
 YEAR

MAHANOY AREA ANONYMOUS DRUG ACTIVITY TIP LINE

570.773.3048

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Do you know someone who needs help with a drug problem?

Did you witness illegal drug activities?

Do you know of drug dealings taking place anywhere in the area?

Do you suspect of drug storage or processing in your neighborhood?

Help us combat drug activity by letting us know it.

Working in partnership, we can make a difference!

The Mahanoy City Police Department ANONYMOUS DRUG ACTIVITY TIP LINE is for the *confidential and anonymous* reporting of information and non-emergency incidents to the Mahanoy City Police Department. The line has been set-up so that members of the community and students of the Mahanoy Area School District can report information that they may otherwise be reluctant to report. The Tip Line is a voice mailbox with a recorded message. A caller can leave a message containing the information that he or she wishes to share with the police department. There is no way to identify the caller or the line the caller is calling from. A caller is welcome to identify themselves and leave contact information if they wish and are encouraged to do so if the situation requires follow-up contact. The information left on the Tip Line will be checked frequently, and investigated as necessary. The Tip Line is a *non-emergency* line. If an incident is an emergency or requires an immediate response, call 911.

Help us take back our community by reporting illegal drug activity on the tip line!

For more information on the Mahanoy Area Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition, go to: www.mabcars.net



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Top 10 New Year's Resolutions

1. Be a better/good person
2. I don't have a New Year's Resolution
3. Go to the gym and get fit/stronger
4. Lose weight
5. Save money
6. Get into a good college
7. Eat healthy
8. Get a job
9. Be happy more often
10. Do homework on time
11. Practice piano more often
12. Not eat sugar
13. Don't swear
14. Don't die
15. Get a day planner and use it
16. Write a journal
17. Make next year better
18. Be on the Honor Roll the whole year
19. Have a more positive outlook
20. Do ballet
21. Save \$1000
22. Make new friends
23. Run a 7-minute mile
24. Make State for swim
25. Fight the tyrannical majority
26. Wake up earlier
27. Work harder on everything
28. Study the Book of Mormon more often
29. Be better to my family
30. Get good grades
31. Get a car
32. Do the right thing no matter how unpopular it is
33. Be a good friend
34. Smile all the time
35. Run a 1.2 marathon
36. Run a 10K race

What does "Auld Lang Syne" mean, and why do we sing the song at midnight on New Year's Eve?

"Auld Lang Syne," the title of a Scottish folk song that many English speakers sing at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, roughly translates to "days gone by." The poet Robert Burns is credited with transcribing, adapting and partially rewriting it in the late 18th century. Its lyrics, which rhetorically ask whether "auld acquaintance" should "be forgot," have been interpreted as a call to remember friends and experiences from the past. Though sung on New Year's Eve since the mid-19th century, it became firmly cemented as a holiday standard when Guy Lombardo and the Royal Canadians played it during a radio broadcast from New York's Roosevelt Hotel at midnight on December 31, 1929. The band went on to perform the hit every year

until 1976, and loudspeakers continue to blast their rendition after the annual ball drop in Times Square.

Who were the first to make resolutions for the new year?

People have been pledging to change their ways in the new year—whether by getting in shape, quitting a bad habit or learning a skill—for an estimated 4,000 years now. The tradition is thought to have first caught on among the ancient Babylonians, who made promises in order to earn the favor of the gods and start the year off on the right foot. (They would reportedly vow to pay off debts and return borrowed farm equipment.) The age-old custom of breaking one's newly formed resolutions within several months—a fate that befalls the majority of would-be reformers, according to statistics—probably originated shortly thereafter.

**"FOR LASTING
MEMORIES"**



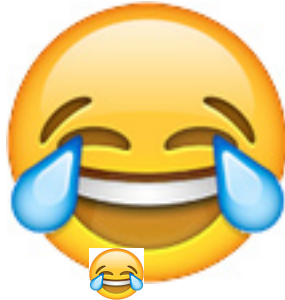
**PHOTOGRAPHY
110 West Centre Street
Mahanoy City, PA 17948**

570-773-2972

Oxford Dictionaries Word of the Year 2015 is...

tears-of-joy-emoji

That's right – for the first time ever, the Oxford Dictionaries Word of the Year is a pictograph: officially called the 'Face with Tears of Joy' emoji, though you may know it by other names. There were other strong contenders from a range of fields, but this was chosen as the 'word' that best reflected the mood, and preoccupations of 2015.



Why was this chosen?

Emojis (the plural can be either emoji or emojis) have been around since the late 1990s, but 2015 saw their use, and use of the word emoji, increase hugely.

This year Oxford University Press have partnered with leading mobile technology business SwiftKey to explore frequency and usage statistics for some of the most popular emoji across the world, and 😄 was chosen because it was the most used emoji globally in 2015. SwiftKey identified that 😄 made up 20% of all the emojis used in the UK in 2015, and 17% of those in the US: a sharp rise from 4% and 9% respectively in 2014. The word emoji has seen a similar surge: although it has been found in English since 1997, usage more than tripled in 2015 over the previous year according to data from the Oxford

Did You Know...

- The word Christmas is Old English, a contraction of Christ's Mass.
- The first president to decorate the white house Christmas tree in the United States was Franklin Pierce.
- Germany made the first artificial Christmas trees. They were made of goose feathers and dyed green.
- Electric lights for trees were first used in 1895.
- The first Christmas cards were vintage and invented in 1843, the Victorian Era.
- "It's a Wonderful Life" appears on TV more often than any other holiday movie.
- Rudolph" was actually created by Montgomery Ward in the late 1930's for a holiday promotion. The rest is history.
- The Nutcracker" is the most famous Christmas ballet.
- Jingle Bells" was first written for Thanksgiving and then became one of the most popular Christmas songs.
- If you received all of the gifts in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," you would receive 364 gifts.
- The poinsettia plant was brought into the United States from Mexico by Joel Poinsett in the early 1800's.
- Holly berries are poisonous.
- Contrary to common belief, poinsettia plants are non-toxic.
- Mistletoe was chosen as Oklahoma's state flower in 1893 and later changed to the state floral emblem.

Answers To Christmas Trivia

- Question 1: Silent Night
- Question 2: We Three Kings
- Question 3: Joy to the World
- Question 4: Deck the Halls
- Question 5: Hark the Herald Angels
- Question 6: O Come O Come Emmanuel
- Question 7: O Come All Ye Faithful
- Question 8: Away in a Manger
- Question 9: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
- Question 10: The First Noel



Elementary



BEAR PROGRAM

Guidance Counselor Heather Yarnitsky reports that the new school-wide positive behavior program (BEAR PRIDE PROGRAM) has seen much success. BEAR stands for Behavior, Effort, Attitude, and Responsibility. Students have earned BEAR PRIDE tickets for good behaviors based on classroom and school-wide expectations. These tickets have been redeemed for prizes from the BEAR PRIDE INCENTIVE MENU (i.e. kids' meal certificates, homework passes, etc.).

Classroom BEAR PRIDE stickers have also been earned and BEAR PAWS added to the PATH OF PRIDE located near the office. Students have earned twenty-two (22) BEAR PAWS toward our next goal of fifty (50).

RED RIBBON WEEK

Mahanoy Elementary participated in the Red Ribbon Week Activities as determined by the Drug and Alcohol Coalition and the MAHS SADD Club. The kick off was a collection of canned goods to be donated to the Saint Vincent de Paul food pantry in Mahanoy City. The top two homerooms that brought in the most canned goods were awarded a red tote bag for each student and teacher. Congratulations to Mrs. Maryellen Boyle's first grade who collected 86 items and Mr. Tom Dulsky's Kindergarten who collected 80 items. A total of 778 items were collected in the elementary school.

Dress Down Days for the week included:

- Monday: "It's a Red-Out Against Drugs" (Wear as much red as you can.)
- Tuesday: My Future is Bright Keep Drugs Out of Sight" (Wear favorite college t-shirt/sweat shirt)
- Wednesday: "Toon Out Drugs" (Wear favorite cartoon or Disney characters)
- Thursday: "Color Me Drug Free" (4th grade - red, 3rd grade - orange, 2nd grade - yellow, 1st grade - blue, Kindergarten - green, teachers - blue, Admin and Staff - purple)
- Friday: "We are Pawsitively drug Free by saying Boo to Drugs" (K-4 bring your costume through the door for the afternoon)

In addition, High School SADD Club members taught mini lessons on making good choices to grades 1-4. Discussions included what medicines are and how they

work, an explanation on how to create one's natural high, and the difference between helpful and harmful drugs. Lessons include videos, role-playing, riddles, and worksheets.

Thanks to everyone that helped to make this worthwhile event such a memorable one. Special thanks to event coordinators Mrs. Andrea Caulfield, Mrs. Kate Orsulak, Mrs. Cathy Stone, Mrs. Heather Yarnitsky, Ms. Jen Kern, and Mrs. Trinna Delia.

ANTI-DRUG MAGIC SHOW

The Elementary School enjoyed a fun and exciting, magical anti-drug school assembly program on Friday, October 30th. Magician James Warren communicated a powerful message that our children could understand. The messages were simple: drugs are BAD for you, drugs destroy your body and your mind, and drugs cause ADDICTION. Mr. Warren explained these messages with a fun magic routine so that everyone could understand the meaning and dangers of addiction. Special thanks to Ms. Kelly Wolfe and Mrs. Heather Yarnitsky for coordinating this event.

BOOK FAIR AND FAMILY READING NIGHT

The annual book fair was held during the week of November 2-6 for elementary school students. "Monsters" was the theme this year. Special thanks to Coordinator Mrs. Lisa Broomell and her staff (Mrs. Connie Jarrard, Mrs. Judy Kane, Mrs. Maryellen Boyle, and Mrs. Kim Butcavage) for running this very successful event. An additional shout out to High School Students Madison Mick and Alanna Ryan and the Middle School Section of 6-1 for their assistance as well.

Family Reading Night was held in conjunction with this event on Thursday, November 5th from 6:00-7:30. Principal Susan Scheeler, guest reader, read "If You're a Monster and You Know It" by Ed and Rebecca Emberly to over fifty (50) excited and active participants.

PA TRACKS

Elementary students participated in the PA Tracks Nutrition Program "Glitterbug" during the week of November 9-13. TRACKS (Pennsylvania Nutrition Education Tracks) is the statewide program that provides Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education

Elementary cont'd

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December

December is the 12th and last month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian Calendars and one of seven months with the length of 31 days.

December starts on the same day of the week as September every year and ends on the same day as April every year.

December is the month with the shortest daylight hours of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and the longest daylight hours of the year in the Southern Hemisphere. December in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent to June in the Southern Hemisphere and vice versa.

In the Northern hemisphere, the beginning of the meteorological winter is 1 December. In the Southern hemisphere, the beginning of the meteorological summer is 1 December.

In Latin, decem means "ten". December was also the tenth month in the Roman calendar until a monthless winter period was divided between January and February.

December's flower is the narcissus or holly. December's birthstones are turquoise, lapis lazuli, zircon, topaz (blue), or tanzanite.

The poinsettia December's birthstone is the blue turquoise or zircon, and the recently added tanzanite.

Its birth flower is the holly or poinsettia.

The Zodiac signs for December are Sagittarius (until December 21) and Capricorn (December 22 onwards).

January



January is the first month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars and one of seven months with the length of 31 days. The first day of the month is known as New Year's Day. It is, on average, the coldest month of the year within most of the Northern Hemisphere (where it is the second month of winter) and the warmest month of the year within most of the Southern Hemisphere (where it is the second month of summer). In the Southern hemisphere, January is the seasonal equivalent of July in the Northern hemisphere.

January starts on the same day of the week as October in common years, and starts on the same day of the week as April and July in leap years. In a common year, January ends on the same day of the week as February and October, and ends on the same day of the week as July in a leap year.

January (in Latin, Ianuarius) is named after Janus, the god of the doorway; the name has its beginnings in Roman mythology, coming from the Latin word for door (ianua) since January is the door to the year.

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