

The Scroll



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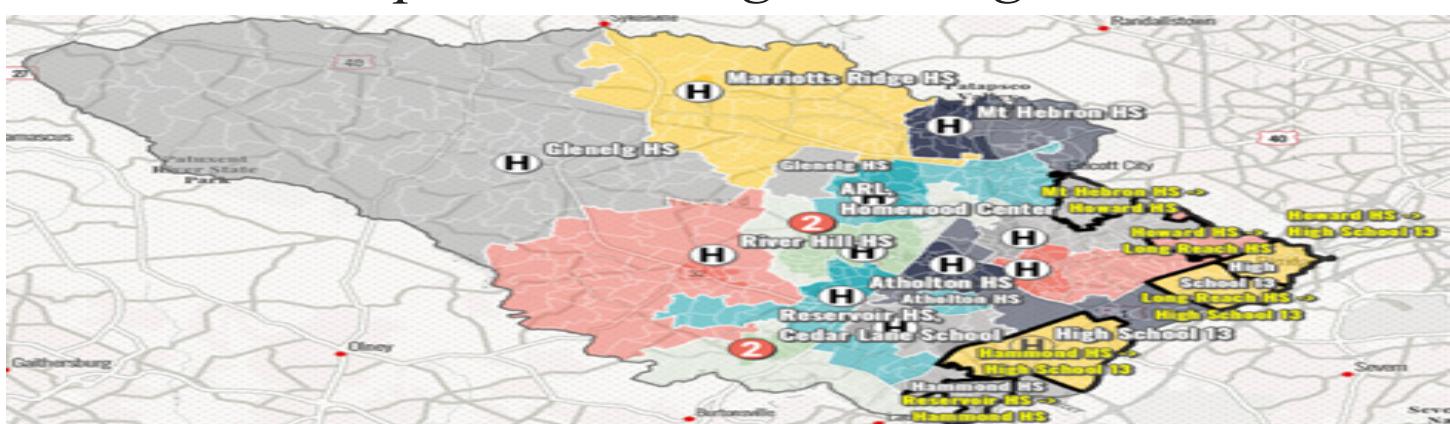
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Oakland Mills High School

December 23, 2022

High School 13 *Up and Running Next August*



Vic Burch
News Editor

This past November, the Howard County Board of Education solidified the redistricting plan and announced specifics about High School 13 for the 2023-2024 school year. Situated in Jessup, High School 13 will receive students from Hammond, Howard, and Long Reach High Schools. Students will be moved from Mount Hebron to Howard High School, Howard

to Long Reach High School, and Reservoir to Hammond High School. However, there are multiple exemptions to the redistricting that students are able to use in order to opt-out of being redistricted.

Current 10th and 11th grade students who have been redistricted have the option to continue attending their current school and opt-in for HCPSS provided transportation. Current 9th grade students who have

been redistricted to a pre-existing school will also have the option to stay at their current school and opt-in for HCPSS transportation whereas those who have been redistricted to High School 13 do not have this exemption. Siblings of students that are exempt from redistricting and have shared one year together in the school they are being redistricted from are also exempt and able to opt-in for HCPSS transportation. Stu-

dents with an IEP or 504 plan in place as of November 17, 2022 are also exempt and are able to opt-in for HCPSS transportation.

Upon opening, High School 13 will only have 9th and 10th grade classes. Elective classes offered will be determined by student demand. Although the name is still undecided due to HCPSS school naming policy, the name will be related to local geographical features.

The Ongoing War in Ukraine *The Global Impact of the Ukrainian Conflict*

Carter Keenan
Staff Writer

Over the past year, it has been very easy to think of the war in Ukraine as a far off conflict that only impacts eastern Europe. Unfortunately, that's just not true. The war in Ukraine has impacted many lives. Some impacts are big, some are small, but none of them are

good.

At the beginning of this conflict, there was a sharp increase in gas prices. This was due to the international sanctioning and embargo of Russian natural gas which makes up a large part of what becomes the gas used for cars. This caused gas prices to rise to nearly \$5.00 per gallon in some

areas. Continuing with rising prices, the embargo of Russian natural gas has caused a spike in electricity prices throughout Europe. Some countries are feeling its effects so severely that citizens are cutting all power in their house while they sleep to cut prices.

While price increases have been

serious, it pales in comparison to the very real threat of violence to those living outside Ukraine. Over the past months, wartime violence has expanded past the borders of Ukraine and gone as far as Ireland. Just last month, two missiles hit the small Polish village of Przewodow (*continued on page 9*)

Features

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2023 Scholarships

Free Money to Further Your Education

Kylee Hoffman

Editor in Chief



It's the most wonderful time of the year...when college acceptances and financial packets are released! College is an exciting new step in your academic journey, but it can come at a heavy cost. Educationdata.org has reported that the average college student pays between \$25,000 and \$44,000 per year. That price excludes dormitory living essentials, meal plans, books, and all other expenses not covered in tuition. Most people do not have that much money lying around to spend

on school, but the majority of employers require a college degree. So, what can be done to lower the price of education?

While loans are an option, they take forever to pay off and interest increases annually. Free money is the best way to go, which can be found through scholarships. If you already got a scholarship to your school, congratulations! But, one scholarship may not cover everything, and FAFSA never gives enough. So, here are some scholarship options that you may want to check out.

1. ScholarshipOwl NO ES-SAY Scholarship

This scholarship, as described, does not require an essay. Throughout the course of the year, 50 applicants will receive a scholarship of \$50,000. It never hurts to apply.

2. Live Mas Scholarship by

Taco Bell

Taco Bell has a scholarship that can be worth up to \$25,000! All you have to do is submit a two-minute or less video addressing the questions on their website.

3. Arthur M. and Berdina King Eagle Scout Scholarship

This scholarship is open to all Eagle Scouts interested in the American Revolution. Eligible scouts can receive up to \$10,000. The Eagle Scout Scholarship does require an essay, as well as a four-generation ancestor chart.

4. Big Future Scholarship

The Big Future Scholarship is a no-essay scholarship available to all high school seniors. Amounts vary but can be up to \$40,000. It is through College Board, so you should already have an account ready! They announce winners monthly, so make sure to apply!

5. Thiel High School Fellowship

This scholarship is one for those who enjoy engineering. 20-30 applicants will receive \$100,000 through the two-year fellowship. This would require you to skip two years of college to work on the fellowship, so it is a lot to consider, but you would get paid \$100,000 over the two years and a potential job after. If you are unsure if college is right for you, this may be the perfect opportunity!

6. Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards

The Helen Diller Family Foundation is handing out 15 \$36,000 awards to Jewish teens who show strong leadership and are currently serving in a leadership position to better the world. The deadline is January 5, 2023, for interested applicants.

(continued on page 11)

Avatar: The Way of Water

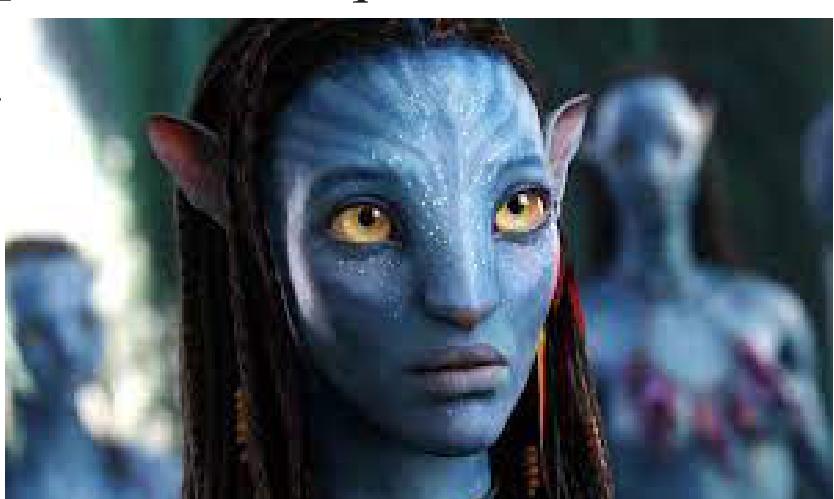
The Sequel 13 Years Later

Gabe Jimenez

Staff Writer

After 13 years the highest-grossing movie of all time finally got its sequel! Audiences were introduced to the world of Pandora back in 2009 with the release of Avatar, and after 13 years, the long-awaited sequel is here! Avatar was considered a huge game changer for CGI in movies, laying the groundwork for special effects in many blockbuster movies. The movie itself was a huge success earning a whopping \$2.922 billion at the box office, making it the highest-grossing movie of all time.

Director James Cameron announced his plan for two sequels back in 2010. Plans for a 2014-2015 release for the two sequels was



announced. However, both sequels were then pushed back to December 2020-2021, before being delayed again to December 2022-2024. Luckily, these dates seemed to have stuck since Avatar: The Way of Water came out on December 16th, 2022.

Of course, there is the question of whether audiences even want more Avatar sequels. After such an iconic

first movie, the standards are high. Due to the sheer length of time audiences were forced

to wait for a sequel, people are expecting a lot more from this movie compared to any other big movie before. Luckily, Cameron is a legendary filmmaker who directed cult classics such as Terminator 2, Titanic, and Rambo.

Cameron wanted to wait for technology to eventually catch up with his vision for the series, specifically with underwater special effects.

Crazily enough, he wanted to have the scripts for all four planned sequels done and ready for shooting before production even began, which is another factor in the delayed sequels.

Actor Sam Worthington returns as Jake Sully, the main human character of the first movie. Jake ends up siding with the Na'vi, who are the iconic tribe of blue humanoid people. Actor Zoe Saldaña, who you might know as Gamora from the Guardians of the Galaxy series, is returning as Neytiri, Jake's love interest from the first movie.

All in all, Avatar is a highly anticipated continuation for a movie that hasn't seen the light of a sequel for more than a decade. Be sure to catch it in theaters now!

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The Harm of Devices

How Devices Affect People

Benjamin Omidiran

Staff Writer

Phones and computers are part of the daily lives of human beings. People use these devices for different purposes: to communicate, write, type, learn, entertain, research, and more. These devices affect people in today's society because people are used to using them all the time. These devices are known to be very addictive and can affect the human brain in both positive and negative ways. These electronic devices positively affect people by getting information and resources quickly to help others. Devices can also build people's knowledge in a very quick way by providing them with all the information they need. These devices can help students to study and do well on their school work, tests, and homework.

However, there is also a negative side with these elec-

tronic devices. Phones and computers can easily distract people and cause health problems. According to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, devices can have a negative affect on people's memory. Phones and computers can distract kids from doing their school work and can cause them to sit all day on social media. They

can have a negative impact on students' grades and can affect them with their academics. Phones and tablets can be damaging for kids because their brains are still growing;



the average human brain stops developing at the age of 25. In addition, these devices are causing kids to stay up late at night which is not healthy for their brains.

It's extremely dangerous when kids make a habit of not getting enough rest. This is dangerous because lack of sleep leads to serious health problems which include

decreased brain development, weight management problems, growth issues, headaches, mental illness, diseases and more that are harmful to a person's body. Kids are

supposed to get a minimum of 10 to 11 hours of sleep, while adults should be getting a minimum of 8-9. Sleep deficiency is linked to many health problems including heart disease, kidney disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, stroke, obesity, and depression. According to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, too much screen time can also lead to poor posture, causing chronic neck, shoulder, and back pain.

In this technological age, electronic devices affect people in different ways. On the positive side, our gadgets make it easy to research, gather information, learn, and communicate. On the other hand, these same gadgets also affect people's brains, distract, and lead to health problems. According to the research and information coming out about technology usage, we should all consider limiting our time on our devices and gadgets.

Why We Celebrate The Way We Do

The Origins of Christmas Traditions

Oba Aofolaju

Staff Writer

The festive season of love and joy is spread during the month of December, but why do we celebrate it the way we do?

The biggest mystery lies behind the tree, originating in Germany during the 16th century; they were the first to start the tradition of putting up trees to celebrate the holiday. According to History.com, it is also rumored that Martin Luther, a famous German priest and theologian, lit candles and lined his family tree after being inspired by the stars that shone so bright in the sky. Christmas itself started as a pagan holiday and spread worldwide with people from all over celebrating it in

special ways.

Germany is credited for a lot of the traditions that the holiday entails. The candy cane is another one of their contributions to the festive customs. The story goes that a choirmaster in 1670 wanted to keep the children quiet in church, so he asked a local candy maker to make sugar sticks for him. However, they were not popular until production could be automated. Making the signature candies was laborious and only candy makers could create the treats by twisting the candy in an extensive process. They began being mass produced in the United States in 1919 by candymaker Bob McCormack. Now, according to TDN.com, almost two bil-

lion candy canes are made each year with 90% of those sold between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Ancient Greeks can be thanked for their romantic tradition of the mistletoe. The tradition of the mistletoe is that any two people standing together underneath it must share a kiss. If one is rejected, "bad luck" is to follow the person. It is a silly superstition but many couples enjoy it. The Greeks used the plant in marriage ceremonies and it was associated with fertility.



Christmas is a holiday with so many traditions spread all over the world. Now that you know the history behind some of these traditions that we follow each year, enjoy this Christmas with your family! Happy Holidays!

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Kwanzaa

An Overview of the Holiday

Avery Odum-Domphreh

Staff Writer

Every year, from December 26th to January 1st, Kwanzaa commences. The cultural holiday spans seven days, each having its meaning and purpose in allowing African-Americans and Pan-Africans to celebrate and embrace their African heritage. Many of you may not know about Kwanzaa since it's a reasonably new holiday, founded in 1966 by Maulana Karenga. Karenga was a black nationalist who wanted unity within his community after the Watts Rebellion, a six-day riot in South Central Los Angeles between the black community and police.

The actual name of the seven day holiday originates from the Swahili phrase: "matunda ya kwanza," which translates to first fruits. The seven days consist of: Umoja, meaning unity, Kujichagulia, translating to self-determination, Ujima, referring to responsibility, Ujamaa, focusing on cooperative economics, Nia, which is purpose, Kuumba, centered around creativity,

and Imani, which is all about faith. These days can also be referred to as the seven principles and emphasize self-actualization and community cooperation between those who celebrate. The seven days also have corresponding gifts with mazao (crops), mkeka (mat), kinara (candleholder), muhindi (corn), kikombe cha umoja (unity cup), zawadi (gifts), and the mishumaa saba, which are seven candles arranged on the table, three red, three green, and one black. The three colors

are also the theme of the holiday, so families tend to decorate their houses with those colors and dress in matching dashikis, or their respective African clothing. The black candle represents Umoja or unity, said to be the base of all success, so it's lit on the first day of the celebration. The celebration of Kwanzaa also requires Karamu, a feast on

the final day that includes African and African-American dishes, such as; jambalaya, gumbo, groundnut stew and stewed black eyed peas. All of the original names of the components of the holiday stem from Swahili, an originally East African language that has spread throughout Africa and the Middle East. Additionally, the traditions of the holiday are drawn from



West and East African harvest festivals.

Kwanzaa has drawn its own culture too, with songs like "Happy Kwanzaa" by Teddy Pendergrass, "7 The Kwanzaa Song" by Kwanzaa Gospel Chorus, "Merry Christmas/Happy Kwanzaa" by Stevie Wonder and "Kwanzaa" by Headhunters. The holiday also has its own seven quintessential folktales matching with the seven principles and their messages. The story of "Anansi and his Sons" go with Umoja, "The

Three Tests" match Kujichagulia, "The Great Drum" with Ujima, "The Feast" with Ujamaa, "The Name of the Tree" with Nia, "Anansi Writes a Song" with Kuumba and "The Collared Cow" with Imani. Most of the modern cultural celebrations are still heavily inspired by Africa, such as the tribal dancing and drumming that commences at Kwanzaa.

Gifts are given for the holiday, with most being homemade, educational, or from black-owned businesses. Contrary to what you may believe, this holiday doesn't replace Christmas for those who celebrate, as it's more of a racial-cultural experience than religious or commercial. The celebration of Kwanzaa is also open to anyone who wishes to appreciate African culture, which surprises many, likely explaining why only 4% of Americans celebrate the holiday. I hope this article and other forms of information spreading about the deep-rooted and prideful holiday bring more people to celebrate.

Christmas in Other Cultures

Nancy Barrozo

Staff Writer

Feliz Navidad! Christmas is celebrated in many different countries, but my favorite is Christmas in Guanajuato, Mexico. It is a beautiful celebration since there are so many fun things to do, such as going to bailes, going out to las posadas, and praying to baby Jesus. Bailes are a fun dance for people to go and have fun all night long. Posadas are religious festivals that are from December 16th until Christmas Eve. You go pray with people in the community. The Posadas mostly show the journey that Mary

Celebrate the Holiday in Mexico

and Joseph made to Jerusalem where Jesus was born. For the Christmas party, many known music artists go to the ranch for the big party that happens every year! The fiestas are brightly colored and have a lot of confetti. They also have a type of dance where a person will go under the horns of a bull and dance with it having fireworks coming out of it!

Las Posadas is one of the main Christmas festivities celebrated at different peoples' houses

every night. In Posadas they have candy, food like tamales, pozole, champorado, bueñitos, atole, and many more. They start from December 16th to December 24th, with a prayer every night. In Mexico, they pray to baby Jesus on the 24th, which makes baby



Jesus go to sleep and rest. After they celebrate The Three Kings, they pray again. Then, baby Jesus will be up on February 2nd after you pray for him to wake up again. The

Three Kings are named Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, and their journey started when they were following the star of Bethlehem to find where Jesus was born. They brought gifts for Jesus, like gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Christmas in many different countries is different and beautiful, with many of their traditions filled with love. As a result of many countries celebrating it differently, I believe Christmas in Mexico is one of the best-celebrated holidays. Christmas will always be a happy and loving place for any country to be with family and friends!

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Holidays Around The World

A Look at The Widely Celebrated Winter Holidays

Vicroia Williams

Editorials Editor

As winter approaches, it is easy for people to begin falling into Christmas traditions, myself included. But often-times we forget that there are so many different holidays to be celebrated. Regardless of how you say it- “celebrate”, “celebrar”, “célébrer”, there is so much to celebrate this holiday season. For some, December may be the month for bad Hallmark movies and Christmas music, and for others, December may be a month for playing dreidel and lighting the menorah.. It is important to respect and acknowledge the significance of other holidays during this time since all winter holidays deserve recognition.

According to Britannica.com, *Hanukkah* is an eight-day Jewish festival of lights that commemorates a 2,000-year-old miracle in which light prevailed over darkness. In the 2nd century BCE, a small group of de-

voted Jews with insufficient weapons defeated one of the strongest armies on Earth. They took back control of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and recommitted it to God’s service. They miraculously lit the menorah, and the oil that was meant to last for one day ended up lasting for eight. The shamash is one of the menorah’s nine flames and is used to light the other eight candles. By Hanukkah’s seventh night, all eight lights are kindled.

As reported by the Christian History Institute, Sweden, Norway, and the Swedish-speaking regions of Finland all celebrate *St. Lucia’s Day* on December 13. In Scandinavia, the celebration marks the start of the Christmas season and aims to spread happiness and joy.

Families celebrate St. Lucia’s Day at home by having one of their daughters dress in white and offer coffee and baked goodies to the other family members, such as saffron bread and ginger cookies.

History.com states that *Chinese New Year* is one of the most important celebrations of the year. The New Year typically begins with the first new moon that occurs between the end of January and spans the first 15 days of the lunar calendar. During the Chinese New Year, employees are given seven days off consecutively so they can join in parades, dances, games, and fireworks. Elders give out envelopes containing money to children. Foods made from glutinous rice are commonly eaten. Other traditions are held to represent togetherness,

luck for the new year.

There are countless additional holidays, including the Winter Solstice, Mardi Gras, Boxing Day, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and many more. There are numerous ways to honor the customs of different cultures, but the most important thing is to do so with respect. Make sure your celebrations respect the tradition and the holiday by doing so. If you are familiar with someone from a different culture than your own, you can politely inquire about their customs and holiday celebrations. By doing your research and using reliable sources in a library or online, you can find out more about the customs of many cultures. Whatever you choose to do, take advantage of the holiday season and view it as a chance to help celebrate diversity, create more cultural awareness, and overall help bring you and others around you closer together this holiday season.



prosperity, abundance, and good

Christmas in the US

A Different Perspective

Takumi Shinkai

Staff Writer

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Takumi Shinkai and I am an exchange student from Japan. Since I got here in August, I was surprised by a lot of cultural differences because the United States is a country of diversity. There are tons of people here from all over the world, which allows for a lot of different traditions in the same country.

As you know, there are a lot of types of holiday celebrations in the world. For instance, in Australia, Christmas comes towards the beginning of the summer holiday because of its location in the

southern hemisphere. That is why some Australian people actually enjoy camping for their Christmas vacation. Polish people do not do anything during the Christmas season. People there try not to have an excess of anything.

Some people give up their favorite foods or drinks and parties. Some people also go to Church quite frequently. Besides that, Islamic Bud-



dhist countries like Bhutan, Libya, and Saudi Arabia don't celebrate Christmas at all. Because there are many

people from all over the world in the US, there are many different types of Christmas celebrations. Most Christians celebrate with their family or friends. Some of them hold parties with certain communities and friends who share similar origins as them. For example, the Filipino Christian community holds a Christmas party in their traditional way.

However, many Muslims in the US feel that by celebrating, or even acknowledging the Christmas holiday,

they are going against their monotheistic belief. Like Christianity, Muslims also believe Jesus (peace be upon him) to be the Messiah. His mother, Mary, is the only woman mentioned in the Quran with a chapter dedicated to her name.

Besides, Jewish Christmas celebrations vary slightly from Christian ones. Although December 25 is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus for most people in the US who believe in Christ, for Jews use this time to reflect on their relationship with larger society. Most people have not thought about Christmas as deeply, but actually, it symbolizes the mixture of cultures in the US.

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Christmas Lights

When They Should Really Be Put Up

Aidan Humphrey
Staff Writer

During the holiday season, most homeowners enjoy decorating their homes with Christmas lights, whether it's lights across a house or an inflatable Santa on the roof. Even simple lights on your railings out front can do the job. Regardless of the type of person you are, most of us enjoy decorating our homes during the holidays.

The time of the month to put them up varies depending on the person, some people start early and some get them done just days before Christmas. However, the truly perfect time to put up your Christmas lights is the weekend of December 10th and 11th. This is right between

Thanksgiving and Christmas, which makes this timeline not too early or too late. This weekend is also about two weeks away from Christmas, therefore, the scenery

of your home stays fresh while counting down the days until Christmas. Compare that to if you were to put them up on the first of December; you would eventually get bored of your lights after being up for almost a whole month.

Putting up Christmas lights as early as November just doesn't make sense at all.



Why put up your Christmas lights before Thanksgiving? Thanksgiving is supposed to give a fall vibe, not a winter and Christmas vibe. The one and only exception for putting them up this early is if you are going all out. When I say "all out" though, I mean you've got inflatables, lights all across the house, Santa on the roof with his reindeer, a

big Christmas tree out front, and little figures all across the yard such as elves or snowmen. However, putting up lights right after Thanksgiving is a little more reasonable, but will just get old after over a month of having them up. If we all were to just wait until the 10th of December or anytime around the 10th, the Christmas season will be more significant and feel truly special. We can still have the Christmas spirit and listen to all the Christmas music we want, but just don't put the lights and decorations up too early. This way, the Christmas spirit won't die off halfway through December because of people wanting to start celebrating too quickly.

Top Ten Christmas Gifts

Jordyn Gitten
Staff Writer

10.3 in 1 Charger

This amazing nightstand accessory is a multi-use charging station that can be used to power up your iPhone, AirPods, and smart-watches

9. Virtual Reality Headset

This amazing headset can take you to an entirely different dimension in seconds.

8. LED Strip Lights

These remote-controlled strip lights are bright enough to illuminate your whole room.

7. Waffle Maker

Who doesn't like waffles? If you or a family member loves homemade waffles, then this item will make a great present. Waffle makers are quick and easy to use, so be sure to add them to your Christmas list.

6. Weighted Blanket

There isn't much to say about this cozy, temperature-balanced blanket

that will keep you warm throughout the winter. They're machine washable and can come in the weight of your choice.

5. Slippers

Pillows for your feet.

4. Nintendo Switch

This handheld gaming device allows you to play dozens of Nintendo-sponsored games. It's light and easy to travel with.

3. 55 inch 6-Series TV

This beautiful wide-screen TV has the perfect resolution and image quality for your family, making movie night 10x better.

2. Play Station Five

The PS5 takes gaming to another level. It gives the player an intensely immersive experience with the highest graphics and smooth quality.

1. XBox Series S

The smallest and sleekest Xbox ever made with an all-digital gaming experience.

Christmas Playlist

By: Beatriz Alves

If you are a person who enjoys Christmas, this Christmas playlist is for you. You might know some of these songs since they are popular, but if you don't know all of them, go ahead and add them to your playlist to get into the festive spirit. Enjoy!

All I Want For Christmas Is You - Mariah Carey
Last Christmas - Wham!
Santa Baby - Eartha Kitt
Santa Tell Me - Ariana Grande
Santa Claus Is Coming To Town - The Jackson 5
It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas - Michael Bublé

Holly Jolly Christmas - Micheal Bublé
Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas - Michael Bublé
White Christmas - Tess Henley
Feliz Navidad - José Feliciano
Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree - Brenda Lee
Jingle Bell Rock - Bobby Helms
Silent Night - Frank Sinatra
It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year - Andy Williams
Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! - Dean Martin
You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch - Thurl Ravenscroft
Winter Wonderland - Bing Crosby
Frosty The Snowman - Bing Crosby
Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer - Gene Autry
Christmas Tree Farm- Taylor Swift



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Professional Christmas Tree Decorator

Meet My Grandma!

Rebecca Fairbanks
Managing Editor



one of the trees that you see in a department store during Christmas time. Then one day as we were decorating her house for Christmas, she told me she was an actual professional Christmas tree decorator!

What in the world is a professional Christmas tree decorator? I thought she was joking, but then she said she was serious. I always thought that the employees of these department stores were just outstanding at decorating trees, but in reality, that is not the case. Grandma went on to explain that stores hire companies to do their holiday decorations, which include Christmas trees.

She would begin her “decorating tour” right around Halloween time by going around to the different stores to scout out the store and consult with management about what exactly they want-

ed the store to look like. She would then begin to decorate the trees. Grandma explained that some stores wanted fancy-themed trees that would match their store colors or certain trendy themes that would attract a customer’s eye. As she was explaining all this to me, I was curious about how she got such an odd job.

Grandma had a friend, named Joyce, who had always worked in the field of arts and decorating. She was very passionate and talented at decorating and being artistic. Joyce brought the idea up to my Grandma, and she jumped on it! She learned everything about decorating and how to achieve the most perfect-looking tree. Joyce and my Grandma went all around the east coast decorating stores and buildings for Christmas for many years to come.

Every year, I decorate my Grandma’s tree with her, and

when she tells me that an ornament is not on the tree right, I remember that she is a professional and that I should listen to her advice. Having a professional Christmas tree decorator as a grandmother means that I have to carry on the legacy, which may be tough, but fun! It has always been an enjoyable activity that always helps her and I bond and get closer. I love to get a new piece of advice every year about how to make my Christmas tree look even better and more professional.

As I will be going to college next year and will not have as much time to spend with my Grandma, I want to savor every moment that I get to spend with her and learn as much from her as I can. Even if it is just learning how to string lights more skillfully or how to attach an ornament a bit more neatly, I love and appreciate all the things that I get to do with her.

There Is Nothing Like Christmas...Movies

OM's Nostalgic Christmas Movie Picks

Juel Collins
Staff Writer

Remember when December would come around and you would curl up on the couch, get under a cozy blanket, and watch hours of Christmas movies? Well, since the time of year has come around again, let's bring back some of that nostalgia.

If there is one type of Christmas movie that always brings in the holiday cheer, it's the claymation bunch! Debuted in the 1960s to the early 2000s, these classic Christmas movies are always the ones people run to when the holiday season comes around. Movies such as our shiny bright-nosed leader Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, or the “always cool under pressure” Jack-Frost, you really

cannot go wrong with these classics.

Disney has always been a primary memory in many of our childhoods, giving us some of the most fantastic live-action and animated movies ever, but we cannot forget their fair share of Christmas movies for the holidays. There is *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, the *Home Alone* franchise, and even *The Santa Clause*. There are even some you may not remember watching at all, such as *Mickey's Once Upon A Time* or *Beauty and the Beast: The*



Enchanted Christmas.

When asked, a few of the students and teachers in the OM community had their own Christ-

mas movies they loved that brought them the most nostalgia. Many said: *The Polar Express*, *A Christmas Story*, and, very obviously, *The Grinch* (specifically the one starring Jim Carey). Some said movies that even make me nostalgic. Junior Ugonna Ashukl said, “The Christmas movie that brings me the most nostalgia is *Daddy’s Home*.” Junior Seneca Womack said,

“*Elf* is the one that brings me the most nostalgia,” and junior Alejandro Martinez gave his thoughts saying, “*A Christmas Carol* is definitely the one that brings me the most nostalgia, it’s a classic.” Other students and teachers mentioned Christmas movies that I have never even seen before, like “*National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation*,” said by Mrs. Smart, our independent researcher teacher, or, Mr. Ringgold, our BSA Liaison, who said, “*The Boy who Loved Christmas* has to be the one for me.”

Whether it is an all-time classic or just some random movie you found and decided to watch, any Christmas movie can bring back those joyful memories and put you in the holiday spirit!

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Laughing All The Way

A New Era of Holiday Traditions at OM

Lauren Kai Kai

Staff Writer

There is a familiar buzz of excitement in the Oakland Mills Community as the holiday season rolls around. It is a time for cheer, family, and relaxation as many students hit the halfway mark in the school year. As families start to engage in their holiday traditions, so does our school. Throughout the years, OM has had events to celebrate the coming season, including a silent auction, the WBAL Concert for Kids, and Secret Santa Candy Grams. However, this year the Student Government Association (SGA) worked tirelessly to make this winter even more spectacular.

The highlight of the season's festivities was the Winter Parade and charity event that occurred on Saturday, December 17th. The parade featured the JROTC, the National Science Honor Society,

the SGA, the Jewish Student Union, OMO (Oakland Mills Online), the GSA, the OM marching band, and was closed by Santa Foy and the OM varsity cheerleaders. The parade route started at Steven's Forest El-

Photo Cred: Meg Feroli

ementary School and ended at OMHS, where families were invited to come in and watch movies, build gingerbread houses, and peruse community resources. The event allowed students to bond with their peers for hours in a safe and festive environment.

Among those putting together this celebration was Rohan Warrier, our Executive Board President, and he has been incredibly enthusiastic



about this year's possibilities. "I'm super excited about the winter events this year. The holiday parade is something that is important to me and I'm glad we get to do it for the first time. The holiday hangout is something that the parade is leading to, which is also going to be fun. It's going to be a night full of fun activities, and the community is going to be involved," Warrier explained in the weeks before the event.

According to senior class president Abbey Cerbo-Reyes, there were big things in store for the holidays besides the parade and subsequent hangout. Part of what made this season's events so important was the anticipation built up from previous years after issues with Covid. "Last year, there was a big Covid outbreak in the winter time, so most of our winter events got canceled. We were supposed to have the holiday hangout and silent auction last year in December, but we could not have them due to Covid. However, this year we have so many more events going on and planning to do," Cerbo-Reyes said. This season with its many associated events, truly was the beginning of some special new traditions, as well as some old favorites.

Local Winter Events

A Fun Time With Friends and Family

Tay Washington

Staff Writer

Looking for an event to attend with friends or family? Here is a list of local family-friendly events and activities to share with your loved ones.

Date: 12/23 Event: (Marcus Johnson Holiday Celebration) Time: 4:00pm Location: Key-stone Korner Baltimore 1350 Lancaster St, Baltimore, MD

Date: 12/24 Event: (A Family Christmas) Time: Tickets: \$45.00 – \$135.00 Location: John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts 2700 F St NW, Washington, DC

Date: 12/24 Event: (Christmas Eve Holiday Music) Time: 7:30am - 8:00pm Lo-

cation: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and St. John's Christian Preschool 4629 Aspen Hill Rd, Rockville, MD

Date: 12/24 Event: (HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA MENU!!) Time: 3:00pm - 10:00pm Location: Tiki TNT & Potomac Distilling Company 1130 Maine Ave SW, Washington, DC

Date: 12/23 Event: (Kid Holiday Art Party) Time: 10:00am - 4:00pm Tickets: Starting price \$75.00 Location: Creative Outlets Arts Center 7101 Democracy Blvd #2162, Bethesda, MD

Date: 12/26/22 - 1/1/23 Event: (Enchant Christmas World's Largest Christmas

Light Maze & Market) Time: Mon - Fri 4:30am - 10:30pm. Tickets: \$32 Adult and \$23 Child. Location: 1500 South Capitol Street, SE - Washington, D.C. 20003

Date: 12/26 Event: (Trans-Siberian Orchestra - The Ghost of Christmas Eve) Time: 3:00 PM Tickets: \$49.00 – \$100.00 price varies Location: Capital One Arena 601 F St NW Washington, DC

Date: 12/31 Event: (Midnight At 7: Fireworks + WalkThrough Symphony of Lights) Time: 5:30pm - 8:00pm Tickets: \$15 per person Location: Merriweather Symphony Of Lights 10475 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia, MD

*HAPPY
Holidays!
From your
friends at
The Scroll!*



Editorials

December 23, 2022

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Souls of The Scroll

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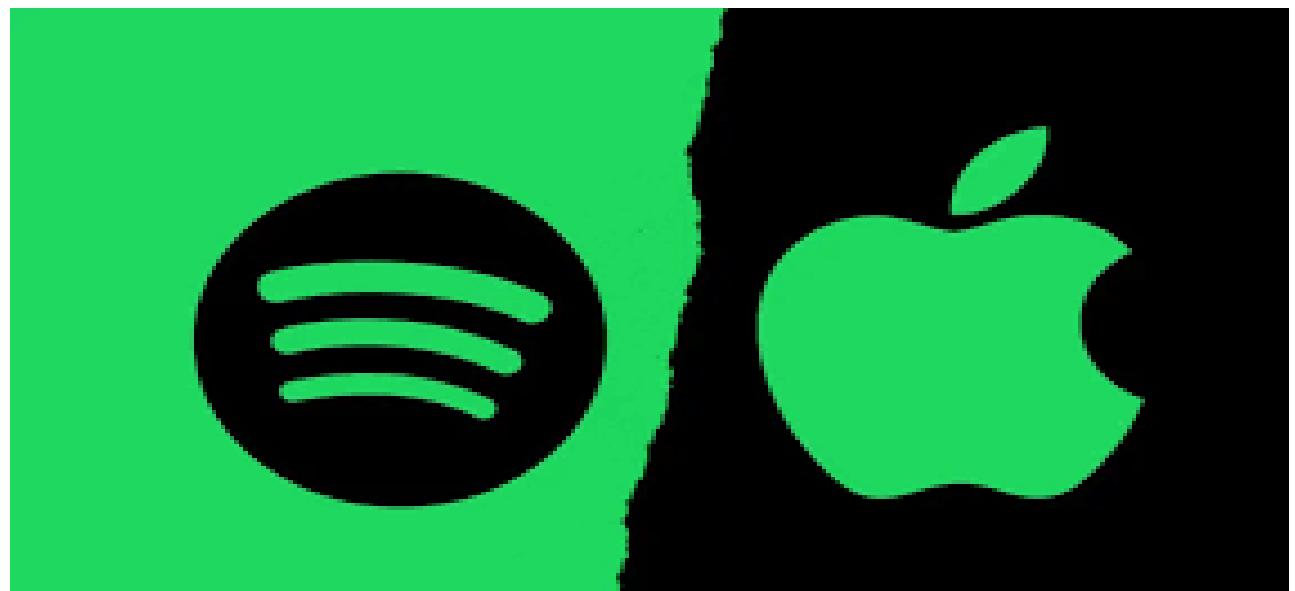
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Theresa Eru

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Spotify Wrapped/ Apple Replay

This year's music results are in!



Nicholas Garcias- Solis

Staff Writer

This year's Spotify Wrapped and Apple Replay are in with all new interfaces, results, and much more. Starting off with Spotify Wrapped, a bunch of new features have been added, most notably their new listening personality that describes the user's character. It is based on 16 personality choices where the user is given a combination of four letters. For example, if you are the type to stream new releases quicker than other users, you would be given

the title ENPC, also known as an early adopter. Or, if you are the type of user to listen to music from other countries, then you would be labeled as an ENLC, or a voyager. Another one of the most notable features that makes Spotify stand out is the new personalized message from the artist the user listens to the most.

Along with Spotify-Wrapped, Apple Replay was released. Apple Music has released its own summary of users' music for the year. Like Spotify Wrapped, users of Apple Music are also

given the amount of time they spent listening to music in general, their top 10 artists of the year, their most listened-to song of the year, and of course, their most listened to/favorite artist and album of the year.

Whether you are ending your year with Spotify Wrapped or Apple Replay, we are all surprised by our music results for top songs and artists. We can expect 2023 to come with new results and even newer features that will keep us on edge and surprise us all!



Check Us Out on Instagram

@ omscroll

Ukraine (continued from page 1)

two innocent people. This sparked outrage among the west as Poland is a NATO nation, and as such, an attack on Poland is an attack on every NATO nation. This is not the only instance of a missile hitting a neutral nation as a Russian missile also struck the small Moldovan village of Naslavcea. This prompted Moldova, who isn't a NATO nation, to condemn the Russian strikes. Despite this, debris from another two Russian missiles landed in Moldovan territory. It is believed that a Russian missile was shot into Ukraine where it was shot out of the air by Ukrainian anti aircraft missile systems, causing the debris to land in Moldova. It doesn't just effect eastern Europe though, as Russia has been harassing

neutral Ireland by flying Bombers off its coasts, sending ships into their waters, and refusing to allow Ireland to teach Ukraine how to disarm and demine land mines and other indirect munitions. Russia stated that if Ireland chooses to teach demining, they will be an active participant in the war.

Russia has also shown they are not afraid of making threats directly to American citizens. Putin has actually encouraged acts of terror against American civilians because he feels acts of violence would discourage further U.S. involvement. Overall, it is important to remember that even if this conflict is thousands of miles away, no one is truly safe from its fallout and we may continue to see effects from this war.

Editorials

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Choosing Electives

Why You Should Choose Journalism

Janiyah O'Brien

Staff Writer

It's about that time when we start choosing our elective courses for next year, and if you have been wondering or confused about what you should choose, I think Journalism is a great option.

If you don't know why you should choose Journalism, let me tell you a little bit about why I did. In the 10th grade, I knew what electives I didn't want to take but I didn't know what electives I did want to take, so I narrowed it down to two classes that sounded remotely interesting: Art and Journalism. I decided to take Art in 10th grade, so I knew my choice was going to be Journalism for this year. I had no idea what the class was about, I just thought that we were going to be doing a lot of writing and it was going to be boring. As it turns out, Journalism is very open-mind-

ed and allows me to think outside of the box (and there's not THAT much writing).

So why should you take Journalism? Well, if you are the type of person who loves writing and loves the free choice of what you can write about, Journalism is a class that you should consider. It



allows you to write about what's going on in the world and why you feel as though it is important to people. You can also write about movies, books, music, school-related ideas, as well as any other topic you may be interest-

ed in. It is something new, a great way to improve your writing skills, and can be a great addition to your resume since the newspaper is student run.

When I asked a few classmates how they would describe journalism, junior Malcolm Brooks, sports editor for the newspaper, said "[it's] a] very self-paced class with a lot of freedom. It's fairly easy but it's a good

learning opportunity." Senior Avery Oduro-Dompreh, a staff writer, said, "it allows you to be creative and research things that you are interested in." Most of my classmates also described Journalism as an easier class

to take, a safe environment, and a great opportunity to express or develop your writing skills. Not only that, but Journalism is a class where you are not judged for how you write, and the students are nice and always willing to help you with ideas. The grades in journalism are about meeting deadlines, not necessarily about how well you write.

So as you begin to make your course selections, I highly recommend Journalism. From the stress-free environment to the writing opportunities it provides, as well as the independence you can experience, you are sure to have an enjoyable experience. Be sure to check out the other electives in the English department, including Yearbook, African American Literature, Advanced Composition, Speech Communication, and Video Production.

2022 Has Been The Best Year Yet

2022 is way better than 2021 and 2020

Jada Fowler

Digital Manager

Has anyone noticed that 2022 seemed more like a normal year? We held inside events where everybody didn't have to be six feet apart, we came back inside the school, and the mask mandate was lifted.

Oakland Mills has held plenty of indoor events during 2022, the prom being one that was held this year that unfortunately wasn't held in 2020. Last school year, seniors and juniors got to have an indoor prom that didn't require them to stay six feet apart and allowed them to have food available. That is not all though, in March, the spring musical, High School Musical, was performed. So many people attended, and

many shows were sold-out. The latest major event that was held inside Oakland Mills High School was the play,



The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, which also sold-out shows.

In 2020 we did online school which, in turn, had a big impact on students' routines and sense of normalcy.

Senior Tylayah Howell-Bay stated, "usually I was pretty decent/good in school, but during quarantine, I was very



unmotivated and it was hard to stay engaged." Coming back to the building after being quarantined for a year put a strain on many people's mental health as we all tried to reacclimate. Senior Saige

Soskil said "I needed so badly to be in school interacting with others, and not getting that caused me to backtrack in my mental health recovery. I'm still relearning how to [deal with] school." Now, in 2022, mental health struggles are more normalized and many are finding different ways to cope. Soskil continued, "In 2022 I have been able to flourish. Life is getting better overall, friendships, relationships, and overall outlook on life are much better than in 2021. Despite many recent events in the media, I will stand by the fact that 2022 has been much better than 2021." Howell-Bay agrees saying, "I think I'm grateful for 2022 more as it was a significant impact on everyone whether it was positive or negative.

World Cup Qatar 2022 Biggest Shocks

Amy Dominguez

Features Editor

The 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar was truly full of surprises! From upsetting losses to many unexpected wins, this year's World Cup was a shock to many. Let's take a look at some of the unexpected events that happened during the 2022 World Cup.

Saudi Arabia vs. Argentina
The first game for Group C, starting with Saudi Arabia and Argentina. Many World Cup fans thought that Argentina was going to have an easy win. That was not the case. Shocking the whole world, Saudi Arabia beat Argentina 2-1.

Morocco made history by being the first African country to reach the semi-finals in the World Cup by knocking out



Portugal in the quarter-finals. Not only did Morocco beat Portugal, but they also beat Belgium and Spain.

Japan is a team to look out for in future World Cups since beating champions Spain and Germany 2-1 each this year. Winning both of these games made people realize the strength of some soccer teams outside of Europe.

The impossible is always possible. During the Netherlands vs. Argentina game, 18

yellow cards were handed out to 15 different players on the field. It was most certainly an interesting and dirty match to watch with so many penalties in one game.

Croatia won against Brazil during the quarter-finals, winning in a penalty shootout 4-2 to move on to the semi-finals. This game was particularly exciting because Croatia came back to tie Brazil in the last ten minutes of the game before going into the penalty

shots.

The final game between Argentina and Brazil was probably one of the most popular and stressful games in the 2022 World Cup. The game was tied 3-3 before heading to a penalty shootout, where Argentina took the penalty shot win over France 4-2. With this, Argentina was the 2022 World Cup winner!

The 2022 Qatar World Cup was one of the most stressful and shocking World Cups ever. Although there were many more shockers, these are a few of the most shocking events. Congratulations to Argentina for winning the World Cup! We cannot wait to see what the 2026 World Cup has in store for us since it is being hosted here in North America!

Scholarships Continued from page 2

7. GE Reagan Foundation Scholarship

Honoring the late president Ronald Reagan, this scholarship awards 20 students who display excellent leadership, drive, and integrity with up to \$40,000. It requires a 3.0 GPA or higher as well as plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course pursuing a bachelor's degree.

8. Ron Brown Scholarships Program

This scholarship honors the legacy of Ronald H. Brown and awards 50 African-American students with \$40,000 (\$10,000 annually). The award must be used to attend a four-year college or university. Applicants must exhibit leadership and excel academically.

9. Profile in Courage High School Awards

This scholarship is an essay contest that awards eight students \$10,000. The required essay prompt is to write an "original and creative essay that demonstrates an understanding

of political courage." The word count minimum is 700 words with a maximum of 1,000 words. The essay also requires a minimum of five sources, including government documents, interviews, and books. The deadline is January 13, 2023.

10. Howard County Arts Council Scholarship

This scholarship is for HCPSS students who would like to pursue a degree in the arts. The HCAC will award a minimum of \$10,000 to multiple select students.

There is no reason why people should be denied an education due to financial hardship, which is why many foundations create these scholarships. There are so many scholarships out there, some for lesser or more value than those listed above. OM has a document full of scholarships for seniors on the Student Services website in the Senior Folder. As the year goes on, scholarships specific to OM students will go out as well. Ms. DeMasi constantly updates them, so make sure to check that out!

Malcolm's NFL Seeding Predictions

AFC

1. Kansas City Chiefs
2. Miami Dolphins
3. Cincinnati Bengals
4. Tennessee Titans
5. Buffalo Bills
6. New England Patriots
7. Baltimore Ravens

NFC

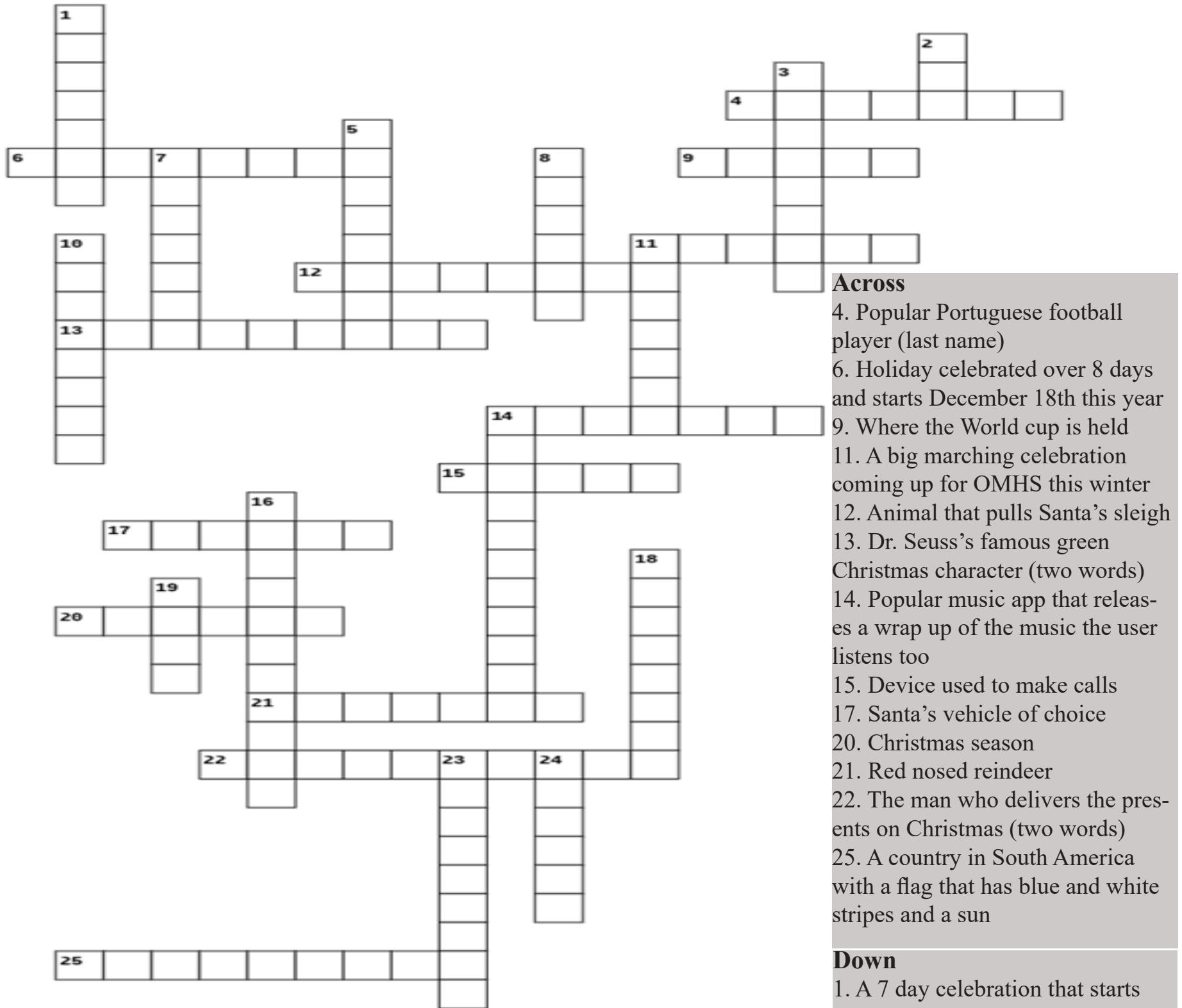
1. Philadelphia Eagles
2. Minnesota Vikings
3. San Francisco 49ers
4. Tampa Bay Buccaneers
5. Dallas Cowboys
6. Washington Commanders
7. Seattle Seahawks



Test Your Brain

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Word Search Created By: James Wheelock using crosswordlabs.com

6			8	2				
1			7	6			2	8
7	2			9		3		
5				8			3	
2	8	1				6		9
3	4	9	6		2	8		5
1	3	5		4			8	6
	2		1				9	
4		8	2	3	6			7

Across

- Popular Portuguese football player (last name)
- Holiday celebrated over 8 days and starts December 18th this year
- Where the World cup is held
- A big marching celebration coming up for OMHS this winter
- Animal that pulls Santa's sleigh
- Dr. Seuss's famous green Christmas character (two words)
- Popular music app that releases a wrap up of the music the user listens too
- Device used to make calls
- Santa's vehicle of choice
- Christmas season
- Red nosed reindeer
- The man who delivers the presents on Christmas (two words)
- A country in South America with a flag that has blue and white stripes and a sun

Down

- A 7 day celebration that starts December 26th this year
- Professional American football acronym
- Country with a green and red flag with a shield
- The number of the new high school being built in Howard County
- Location in an ongoing war
- American way to say football
- The sport being played at the World Cup, though we don't call it this in the U.S.
- Gift given on Christmas
- Helps you with money for college
- Used to make candy houses on holidays
- Celebrated on January 1st (two words)
- What makes a white Christmas
- Holiday celebrated in December involving trees and presents
- New movie about a species of blue people