



# The Northern Bark

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NHS School Newspaper

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## A Look Through the Lens NHS Decorates for the Holidays

By Emily James  
*Pictured [top left] is Olivia Bennett posing with Rudolph in Guidance, [top right] are the Main Office snowmen, [bottom left] is the Guidance office tree, and [bottom right] is the Main Lobby tree.*



## Science Now: Despite Common Belief, Global Warming Isn't a Ploy By the Chinese

By Heritage Hamp  
Global warming is when there is a gradual increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and its oceans. Global warming is now, as of a recent study, 90% certain the result of climate change. It has been noticed that over the last century, especially the latter half, there has been a dramatic increase in the

annual climate temperature all over the world. This increased temperature is said to be caused by burning fossil fuels and greenhouse gases. According to *nrdc.org*, the greenhouse gases, "collect in the atmosphere and absorb sunlight and solar radiation that have bounced off the earth's surface." The gases that get trapped inside of the atmosphere are what causes the earth to become warm. Where there are too many gases that are getting trapped inside of the atmosphere, the earth becomes warmer than usual. This causes ice glaciers (continued on page 2)

## Winter Sports- Hits and Misses

By Hailey Yommer  
Another week means another week full of games and matches. Our sports teams have been quite busy this week. Here is a recap of the past week of Northern athletics. JV boys basketball has had 3 games. On Friday the 9th the boys played an away game at Frankfort, losing by only 10 points with a score of 33-23. Leading the scoring was Cody Eyler with 10 points. The varsity team also played (continued on page 4)

## Breaking News: Aleppo Is Still At Large

By Heritage Hamp  
Aleppo is one of Syria's largest cities and houses millions of people. Currently, there is a war going on between rebel forces and the Assad Regime. Its been reported that Russia is backing the Assad Regime, while the US has been mostly uninvolved. Many of the Syrian people are with the rebel groups because they do not want the Assad Regime to continue in power. On December 14, a cease fire was negotiated between Russia and Turkey so many of the trapped Aleppo civilians could be evacuated. But, not even by the end of the day, the ceasefire was broken and the city was bombed once again. According to *CNN*, over 50,000 people were trapped in Aleppo and were unable to leave. There are no hospitals or doctors left, no food to eat. The people are being forced to stay in a deadly situation. On December 15, another ceasefire was reached and evacuations have begun. The refugees are being sent to a rebel held territory near the Turkish border. According to the *Associated Press*, "The evacuation, which is part of an agreement between rebels and the Syrian government for (Continued on page 2)

## **Breaking News**

(continued)

the pullout from opposition-held neighborhoods of fighters and civilians, is effectively Aleppo's surrender to the government." There are around 20 buses that are commissioned to help evacuate the survivors. The Eastern part of Aleppo has been taken over by the government and this is why these people must be evacuated. They fear that they will be put into prison for being associated with the rebel groups.

There is a planned meeting between diplomats from Turkey, Russia, and Iran to discuss the war. They hope to find a solution to end the ongoing battle. Iran and Russia are for the Regime but Turkey is more in favor of the rebels. The UN has stated that the continued attack on Aleppo is considered a war crime. Many people hope that this ceasefire will be the last and that many of the trapped civilians will be released from the city into safety.

## **Science Now**

(Continued)

to melt and flood surrounding land masses.

This causes many problems for us as humans. With the population increasing exponentially and the water levels rising, more people will be forced to travel more inland. But if everyone is travelling inland, then it will become over crowded quickly and be unable to sustain the needs of all of the people. This also leads to many environmental dangers as well. The heat will cause more

droughts, heat waves, more harsh hurricanes, and more frequent and heavier rainfall. With all of the glaciers starting to melt, the sea level will rise in a very short amount of time and cause flooding worldwide. On December 12 in *Nature Geoscience*, the study confirmed that, "21 out of the 37 glaciers [studied], the researchers say it is "virtually certain" that climate change caused the glaciers' [melting]". It has been confirmed that the accelerated heating of our planet is causing the extreme weather patterns and changes.

To prevent global warming from progressing even further, we must use more environmentally friendly things like recycled paper plates, and biodegradable jars. Things like these do in fact exist. Take part in saving the planet by buying recyclable items.

## **Holiday Movie Poll**

We polled NHS staff and students on their favorite holiday films. We tallied the top 15 films. Here are the results, as featured on the morning news, for movies 6-16. The top 5 films will be featured in next weeks issue, as well as on the morning news.

15 - *Frosty the Snowman*

14 - *It's A Wonderful Life*

13 - *A Christmas Carol*

12 - *Gremlins*

11 - *A Charlie Brown Christmas*

10 - *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*

9 - *The Santa Clause*

8 - *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*

7 - *A Christmas Story*

6 - *Bad Santa*



*Pictured [above] are presents to be delivered by the Student Council during Winter Wish Week.*

## **Offhand Opinions:** **Starbucks' Green Cup** **(Editorial)**

**By Emily James**

As the holidays continue to grow closer, businesses everywhere have begun to express their holiday cheer through decorating. Unfortunately, it seems that no matter what some businesses try to do, it is impossible to please everyone. Last year, Starbucks' red holiday cups sparked controversy that stormed relentlessly through social media. This year, the well-known business has added more fuel to the fire with the introduction of the green cup. Featuring an endearing mosaic-like pattern of over a hundred drawn people, Starbucks' green cups were created as a symbol of unity. Absolutely appalling, is it not? Sarcasm aside, this new design seems to be having an adverse effect: tearing people apart in vicious social media arguments almost akin to the backlash that the 2015 red cups received.

The outrage seems to stem solely from the content of the design, which Howard Schultz, Starbucks CEO, claims was meant to "represent the connections Starbucks has as a community with its partners and customers" and that "during a  
**(Continued on page 3)**

## **Northern Spotlight:** **Student Council** **Spreads Holiday** **Cheer**

**By Abby Burdock**

Student Council has been working very hard to spread Christmas cheer to Northern's students. The council has been spending countless hours organizing their Winter Wish Week and War of the Classes which both take place the week before Christmas break. Winter Wish Week is a weeklong where students make "wishes" either for themselves, a friend, or someone in need. During the week of the event, Student Council grants these wishes granting all need-based wishes and many "fun" wishes. Throughout the week students are surprised with these fun gifts. Natalie Manges, senior and President, says, "Winter Wish Week is one of our biggest events. It's really great because we fundraise all of that money at our Christmas Silent Auction, which was only two weeks ago. Then we go out and buy the things we need to grant the wishes. It takes a long time and is actually a lot of work, but it's definitely worth it because it makes everyone so happy". Manges goes on to say, "This year we are doing all need-based wishes and fewer candy wishes to encourage more students to make more meaningful wishes that could help someone". Winter Wish Week begins Monday, December 19 and ends on Friday December 23, so be prepared for a week full of Christmas cheer.

**(Continued on page 3)**

## **Watch, Look, Listen:** **The Force is Strong- *Star Wars* Continues**

By Karen Beiler

*Star Wars*- definition: A popular name, taken from the title of a film, for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) of President Ronald Reagan. This included the development by the United States of a defense in outer space against intercontinental ballistic missiles (*dictionary.com*) This term is also the name of a specific series of films that has become a worldwide phenomena that I'm sure everyone has seen. Its personally my favorite right along *Star Trek*. There is a total of seven episodes in *Star Wars*, not including the prequels which is what I want to talk about today.

All last weekend every single *Star Wars* film was aired by TNT in a means of getting ready to welcome the new film coming out, *Rogue One*, on December 16th. Don't be worried, there'll still be wookies, just not Chewbacca, and Darth Vader will still be in it. This new one just takes place before everything you already know happens, for example Hans Solo and Princess Leia haven't met and fallen in love yet and Anakin Skywalker has turned to the dark side so he's still Darth Vader. *Rogue One* is about a group of unlikely heroes banding together on a mission to steal the plans to the Death Star, the Empire's ultimate weapon of destruction. Let me tell you a little bit about the series so you're all caught up. The Death Star is a moon

sized space station with the ability to destroy an entire planet. Vader arrives at the station to oversee the super weapons construction because it was running behind schedule. The supreme chancellor Palpatine had decided to build the first dreaded Death Star at the beginning of the Clone Wars, which is *Episode Two* of the series. The *Clone Wars* was a series of battles involving clone soldiers and their Jedi generals against the Separatist droid army. You kind of now have a little picture about what past *Star Wars* have been about., Kristen Kight, a senior, says, "*Star Wars* has been something me and my dad have watched together since I was little. It has an amazing story line and will always be one of our favorite go-to movies."

*Star Wars* isn't just a movie for teenagers or adults, little kids can watch it too! It's not hard to follow if you watch it in order. My dad and I both have the original *Star Wars* in books and I can't even tell you how many times I've read them. This is a good series to watch or read. It's entertaining, so you'll never be bored, and it's one that you'll want to watch over and over because it'll never get old.

### **Northern Spotlight** **(continued)**

For the first time this year, Student Council will be hosting War of the Classes right before the holidays instead of before Thanksgiving. This means students will see a change in the games that are usually played. This year games will include a "snowball" fight, pin-the-tail on a reindeer, and a



*Cup Wars- Pictured [left] is the infamous green cup put out by Starbucks this year. Beside it is the classic red cup that Starbucks has been known for in previous holiday seasons.*

snowman dress-up game. A few War of the Classes classics will still remain. The traditional tug-of-war and partner feeding games will still be back by popular demand. Abby Schneider, a senior member of Student Council, says, "The games this year will be really fun. We wanted to change them a little bit to make it more fun, so that's why we are having it before Christmas break this year". War of the Classes is Friday, December 23 make sure to wear your class color and support your team players!

### **Offhand Opinions** **(continued)**

divisive time in our country, Starbucks wanted to create a symbol of unity as a reminder of our shared values, and the need to be good to each other". Unfortunately, it seems the message the cup was meant to promote has been lost entirely, as many people are taking to Twitter to whine about it regardless. Some are merely complaining about how non-festive the green cup is, such as Meg Towner, who tweeted, "Went to get my first Red Cup and it's GREEN? WHAT? My gingerbread latte is instantly less festive. So mad". Complaints on the aesthetic of the cup, while petty, can easily be overlooked. Other individuals, however, are

going as far as to assert that Starbucks is promoting left-wing brainwashing, such as Archie Bunker, who took things to an entirely new level by tagging Starbucks in a tweet of his own, "Stop pushing your liberal bull\*\*\*\* and sell coffee. Lifelong customer becoming disgusted with the forced agenda". Despite the constant threat of police brutality and terrorism breathing down the neck of this nation, it appears that the design of this coffee cup is simply more infuriating. As always, our country certainly has its priorities in check.

When asked to comment on the unnecessary negativity the cup has received, NHS teacher Mrs. Virts had this to say: "I think it's ridiculous that people are getting so upset over something they're going to throw away. When a company attempts to make something that will unite people, we should embrace it rather than push each other further apart". Our nation is currently one that is very much divided, and in times like these, people should be more inclined to stick together. However, if the Starbucks cup is still a major source of displeasure, why not try Dunkin' Donuts? Rumor has it that one is free from such a "forced agenda" there.

## Slice of Advice

By Emily James

“What should I do if I want to get a gift for someone who doesn’t know what they want?” - Anonymous

If you know the person’s interests well enough, use your own judgement and buy them something you think they will like. If you aren’t sure, then the best thing you can do is buy them the gift of free money: a gift card. You can never go wrong with a gift card; the person can easily go out and buy something they know they will enjoy. Gifts aren’t always about the money, though. While it sounds cheesy, sometimes, the best gift is a handmade one.

Need some advice? Send an email to [nhsmorningshow@garrettcountyschools.org](mailto:nhsmorningshow@garrettcountyschools.org) and our newspaper staff will do our best to provide you with some answers. Remember to keep all questions school appropriate. Student contributors are allowed to remain anonymous, but you must inform the newspaper staff in your email.

## Hits and Misses

(Continued)

against Frankfort on Friday, Frankfort on Friday, losing 66-42. Austin Evans and Colton Houser led the scoring for the boys. Austin scoring 17 points followed by Colton with 15. On Monday night both teams traveled away for a game against Paw Paw. JV came back victorious, winning 31-37. Gavin Yutzy contributed 13

points to help secure the win. Varsity lost their game 51-34, Austin Evans lead the team with 11 points. “Calyb may be out for good. We are struggling to find the points to add to the score without him.” says Ronald Opel, assistant boys basketball coach. Calyb King was injured in the home game last week, tearing his LCL. Calyb is expected to make a recovery, but it may require surgery which would take him out for the season. “It’s my senior season and I was excited, but everything happens for a reason. Me getting my injury is unfortunate, but it is what it is. The team can do alright without me and I wish the best of luck to them”, says Calyb.

The boys still have a chance to bounce back, losing a leading scorer is quite a loss but given a couple games they will figure it out. The boys next game will be at home again at Allegany on the 20th, JV will play at 6 and varsity at 7:30.

The wrestling team has had a very busy week. This weekend the team participated in a tournament in Westminster. Schools from all over Maryland attended. Northern pulled out a 2nd place finish at the tournament. Despite being a fairly tough tournament, Devin Wilhelm, Steven Yutzy, Luke Lowery, and Tylor Thomas went undefeated. Luke’s advice to his team is to “Stay hungry and stay humble”. Tuesday was a match at home against Meyersdale, with Northern winning 57-14. Devin Wilhelm and Steven Yutzy won with pins. The highlight of the night was Sam Beeman’s match. After being thrown into the bleachers by his opponent, Beeman managed to secure



**Home Match against Hampshire: Pictured [top left] The NHS Cheer team and spectators, Riley Brick and opponent [top right], Micah Rollan and opponent [bottom left], and wrestler Jordan Day with an enthusiastic crowd of supporters [bottom right].**

his win by 2 points. “It was a very tough match. It was very intense and a lot of emotions were shown. It feels great to come back victorious” says Sam. On Wednesday the 14th the team competed at a home match against Hampshire, winning 48-27. Jordan Day, Devin Wilhelm, and Tylor Thomas won with pins. Winning by forfeit was Luke Lowery, Steven Yutzy, and Hunter Wilhelm. The team’s next match will be on Monday the 19th away against Allegany.

Thursday night the JV girls basketball team traveled to play an away game against Lighthouse, winning 15-40. Bailee Upole led the girls to the win with a remarkable 20 points. “Everyone played as a team and is improving so much already. Our new players are really getting a hang of it and are a great part of the team.” says Bailee. Varsity also played a game on Thursday night against Bishop Walsh, beating them 30-50.

Jenna Yommer led the scoring with 12 points. The girls also played another game on Monday night. The girls basketball team had an amazing win over Turkeyfoot, in a varsity only game with a score of 42-12. Most recently the girls played a game on Wednesday night winning 60-36. Morgan Rush led the scoring for the girls. The girls next game will be Monday the 19th against Turkeyfoot. The varsity only game will be away, starting at 6:30.



*Pictured [above] is more holiday cheer found in the NHS main office.*

## Tech Now: *Star Wars* Mysteries

By Kristen Beiler

Have you ever watched *Star Wars* and wondered how in the world they got that kind of technology and those kind of ships or stuff in space. I'm going to try and explain to you how they did it and what they used to make this series one of the best to watch. Although this technology is science-fiction based (as of now) it is still exciting to imagine that one day it could be real. Let's begin with the robots and some information courtesy of [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org).

During all the episodes they used robotics like BB-8, R2-D2, C-3PO, and 21-B. The first robot I'd like to talk about is BB-8, who is an actual semi-automated independent robot, just used as a best friend to whoever needs it. Another is R2-D2 a non-humanoid barrel shaped built with multiple purpose features and capabilities which include repairing and programming advanced devices as well as maintaining them. C-3PO is built for multiple purposes ranging from basic physical chores to translating between different languages and other forms of communication, and other forms of artificial intelligence.

A main part in all the *Star Wars* is the lasers that the Jedi use while fighting. The lasers can take an arm, leg or head off with just one hit, they are very dangerous and they come in the colors of blue, green, and red. On the starships such as the Millennium Falcon they have lasers for space war and they need to be charged prior

to battle. *Star Wars* uses separate bolt and single rayed colored lasers that have very high voltage and power. Interstellar Transport is provided by hyperdrives, which transport the spaceship into another dimension, known as hyperspace, in which objects with mass are capable of traveling at above the speed of light. According to

[wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org), "hyperspace is permeated by "mass shadows" of objects in realspace. Any object in hyperspace colliding with ones of these mass shadows is destroyed, so in order to navigate safely starships must utilize hyperspace lanes such as the Corellian Trade Spine. These lanes are devoid of realspace mass shadows enabling long distance travel along them." Think of this as a space highway!

The technology of *Star Wars* is still many years beyond our capabilities, but who knows, one day, "in a galaxy far, far away..."



*Pictured [above] is more holiday cheer, found in the amazingly festive Main Office and Guidance Office!*

## Read All About It: Student Submission

By Abby Burdock

This week's submission is written by junior, Savannah Lewis. This is her first submission to the newspaper and literary magazine. It is a short piece of nonfiction about who she would want to meet if she could meet anyone. If you want your work featured in The Northern Bark please submit it to Mrs. Roller in the library.

### Untitled

If I were to talk to anyone dead or alive, I would want to talk to Franklin D. Roosevelt. I would love to ask questions and get answers so that his advice could help America out of some rough spots that we are in. My first, and I think my most important question for him would be how did he get the media to respect him? Media is a huge issue with people and presidential candidates. Everything the media has ever said about Roosevelt was true and out of respect. I really think the media needs to go back to the way it was before. I would also

ask what he thinks of our current presidential candidates. He would probably be ashamed of what America is like now. When he was president he made great decisions for our country, but now we have so many issues with our country we can't get back to our "normal" life. I would ask what he thinks of our immigrant issue. I would honestly take notes so that I could maybe try to do what he would do. I would ask for his opinion on the issues we are having with Russia, Korea, and China. I would want his opinion on the matter so that we may try to fix this before they make a move. I would also want his opinion on the welfare we have now and what he thinks we should do. I would also want his opinion on police brutality. Roosevelt could get anyone to listen to him and maybe we could stop the ignorance in our nation with his help. I know that Roosevelt might be outdated for our nuclear war, but maybe he could help us with his critical way of thinking. I would want him to guide us through this time just like the Great Depression and the war. Maybe his experience could help us.

## Looking Back at History:

### **Festive Flora**

**By Kristen Kight**

At this time of year, many people decorate their homes with a Christmas tree. But have you ever wondered why we cut down trees for the holiday season? It has been a tradition since before the Christian era. Plants that stay green all year had a special meaning during the winter months, so people used evergreen to decorate above their doors and windows because it was believed that it would keep away evil spirits, illnesses and even ghosts. We credit Germany with starting the tradition of Christmas tree as we now know it today. In the 16th century committed Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. It is a widely held belief that Martin Luther was the first to add lighted candles to a tree when he was amazed by the brilliance of stars twinkling behind the evergreens while walking home. To recapture the scene for his family, he put up a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles.

In 1846, "Queen Victoria and her German Prince, Albert, were sketched in the Illustrated London News standing with their children around a Christmas tree." Seeing the beloved queen with a tree sparked interest throughout Europe and in America. By the 1890s Christmas ornaments were arriving from Germany and Christmas tree popularity was on the rise around the U.S. "It was noted that Europeans

used small trees about four feet in height, while Americans liked their Christmas trees to reach from floor to ceiling." The early 20th century saw Americans decorating their trees mainly with homemade ornaments, while the Germans continued to use apples, nuts, and marzipan cookies. Popcorn joined in after being dyed bright colors and interlaced with berries and nuts. Electricity brought about Christmas lights, making it possible for Christmas trees to glow with less chance of a fire.

Another Christmas plant that we decorate our house in is Poinsettias. Poinsettias are poisonous to our small furry friends, so why would we put them around the house? The legend originated in Mexico and it is about a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Service. She made a bouquet of weed and put it at the of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers. This is the story of how poinsettias became a Christmas Flower.

Holly and mistletoe are also popular, yet dangerous holiday plants used for decorating during this festive season. Although holly can prick us if not handled with care, and mistletoe is poisonous if consumed, they are just another part of the plant traditions that have been passed down over the years. Despite these odd, and sometimes dangerous traditions, we hope that you have a festive and flowerful holiday season!

## Student Art Spotlight

By Abby Burdock



[Above]

Artist: Jillian Wood

Title: Howl

Medium: Acrylic Paint

[Below]

Artist: Emily Brobst

Title: Sketchbook Cover

Medium: Canvas and Acrylic



[Left]

Artist: Bethany Hershberger

Title: Rain or Shine

Medium: Ink and Colored

## Strange Happenings: Christmas Around The World

By Kristen Kight

There are more than 2.2 billion people who celebrate Christmas. Everyone celebrates a little bit differently. For the most part each family has at least one tradition that they do each year. Here are some of the traditions from around the globe.

### Asia

In Japan Only 1% of the population celebrate Christmas. Those who do had a hard time finding or affording a full chicken or turkey, so they turned to the fast food restaurant KFC. Now, thanks to KFC's successful marketing campaign in 1970, "a trip to KFC is a Christmas tradition in Japan". So popular that they recommend placing your order way in advance to make sure you get some. (According to *The Telegraph*)

In India Only 2.3% of the population celebrates Christmas, but with their large population that is around 25 million people. Although since they lack an abundance of fir and pine trees, they decorate their house with banana and mango trees. (according to *Fox news*)

### Europe

In Italy they don't believe that Santa Clause is the one to deliver the presents. They believe that La Befana is a good witch who hands out presents. (According to *The Telegraph*)

In Germany they don't hang up stockings on Christmas eve.

They leave a shoe sitting outside their door starting December 5th. If they have been good the next day they will have a branch covered in candy. If not they just get a branch. (According to *The Telegraph*)

In Ukraine, Christmas trees are traditionally decorated with artificial spiderwebs. It is said to bring good luck. Its origin lies in the tale of " a poor woman who couldn't afford to decorate her tree", so while she slept the spiders decorated the tree for her. (According to the *Telegraph*)

In Czech women stand with their backs to the door and throw a shoe over their shoulders on Christmas day! If the shoe lands with the toe pointing to the door then it is a sign that you'll get married that upcoming year!

### South America

In Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, it is tradition to travel to you church service via roller skates. The roads are even cleared just, so they may have safe passage. (According to the *Telegraph*)

### America

In the United States people traditionally place an ornamental pickle on a Christmas tree as one of the Christmas decorations. This originated in Germany but is now more widely done in America. On Christmas morning, the first child to find the pickle on the tree would receive an extra present from Santa Claus or would be said to have a year of good fortune. Mrs. Virts said that she "started collecting them from the Christkindlmarkt, which is a very famous Christmas

market outdoors in Chicago."

This year for Christmas look at the traditions your family has and maybe think about adopting one of these. Have a very merry Christmas!



Your Northern Bark News Staff [pictured left] Abby Burdock, Hailey Yommer, Emily James, Karen Beiler, Kristen Kight, Heritage Hamp Staff Editors: (not pictured) Ms. Virts & Ms. Roller



Pictured [Left] is the backdrop to Friday night's Band and Chorus concert, including an original painting by senior Cassidy Mark.

## Holiday Music in the Air NHS Music Department - Christmas Holiday Concert

(Article Courtesy of Mrs. Ahern)

The Northern Garrett High School Music Department will host it's annual Christmas Holiday Concert on Friday, December 16, beginning at 7:00 PM. Come out and join us for an evening of celebration and musical fun!

In case school is cancelled, or we have an early dismissal, due to inclement weather on December 16th, there is a make-up date of Thursday, December 22nd.

*Pictured [Above] is the backdrop to Friday night's Band and Chorus concert, including an original painting by senior Cassidy Mark.*