

the Slate



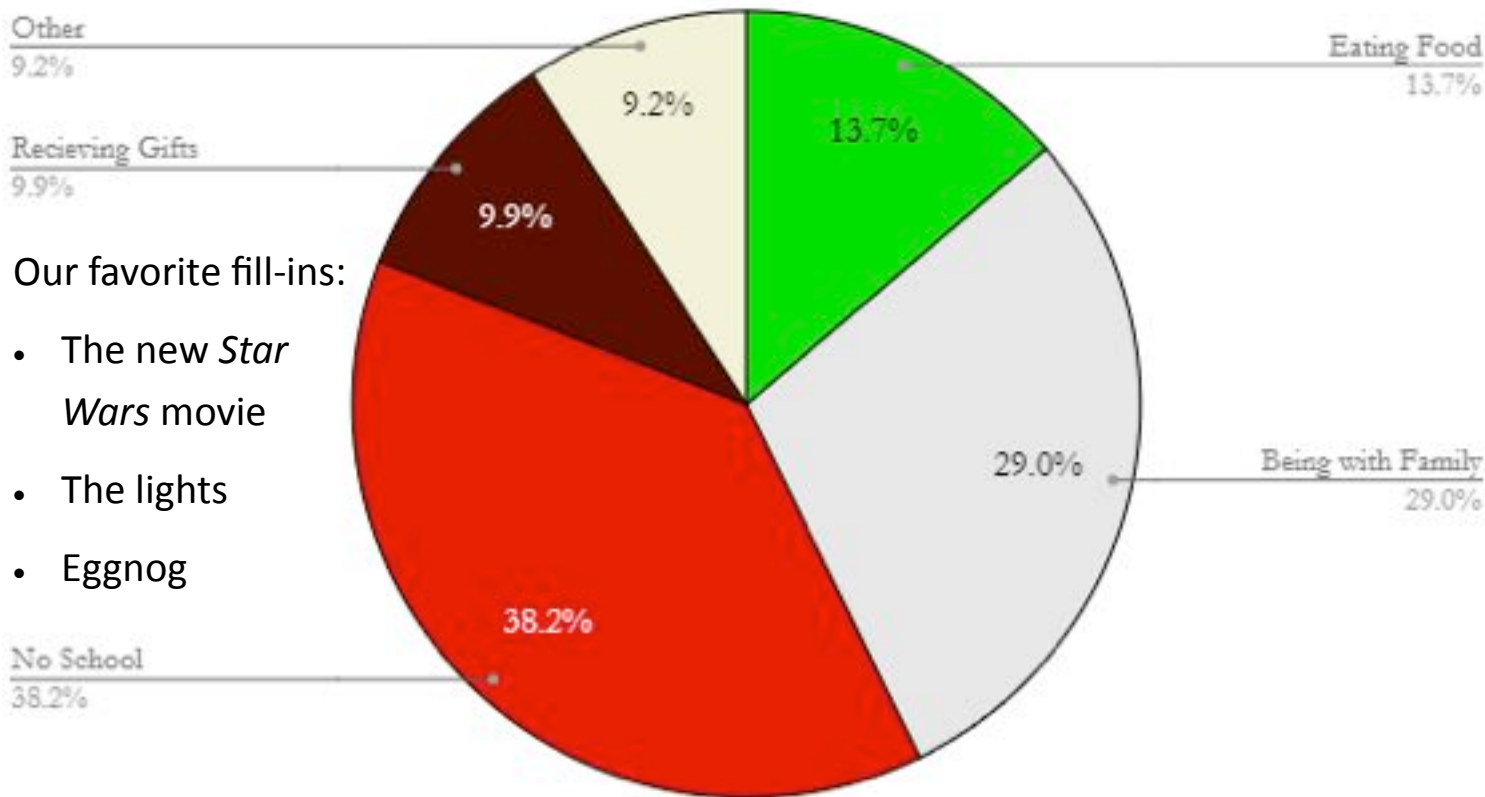
December 2017

Issue 2

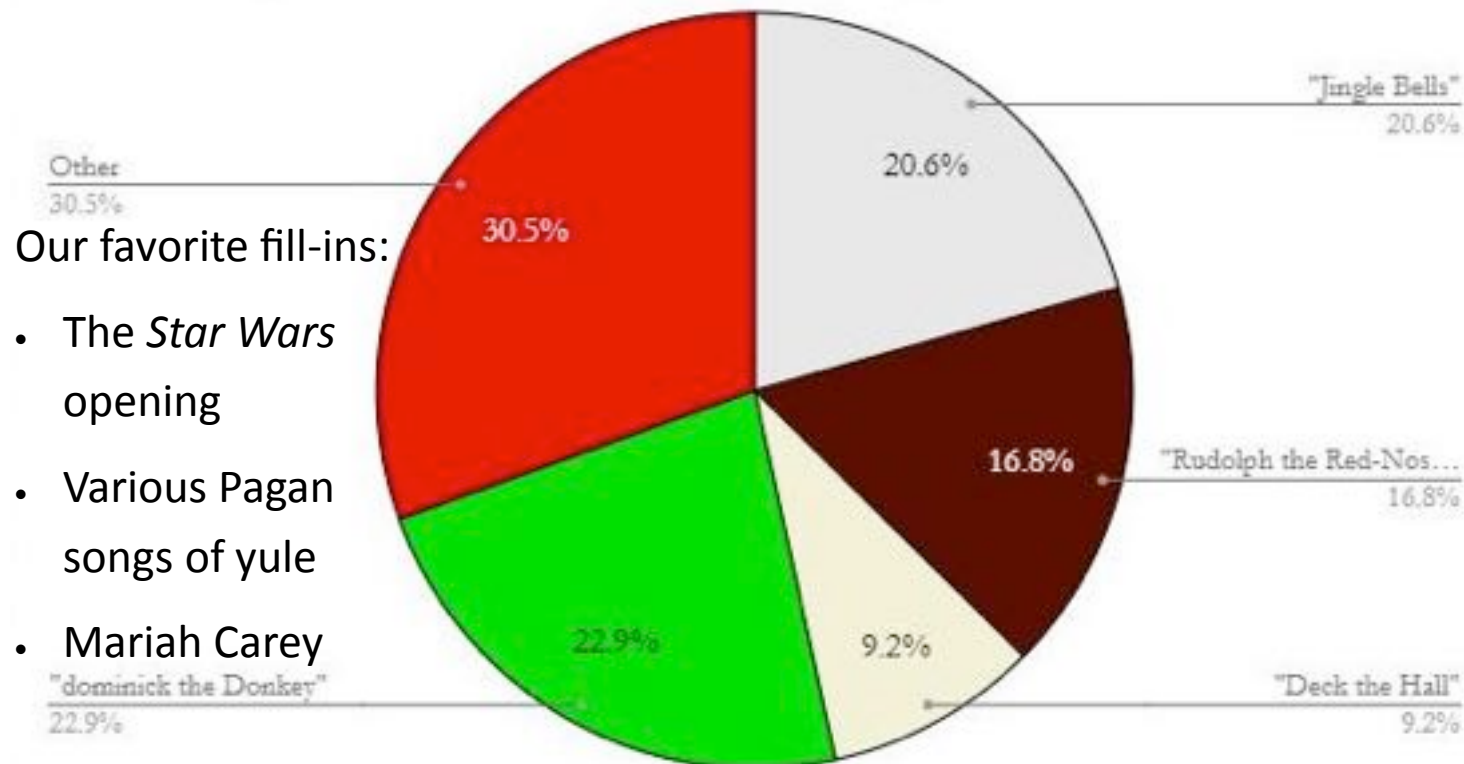
Northern Lehigh's Christmas Sentiments

By Nick Lehman & Carmen Alvaro

What is your favorite part of the holidays?



What is your favorite holiday song?



What's Happening?

- Battlefront II
- Welcome Mrs. Hannon
- Welcome Mrs. Farber
- Student Council
- The Last Jedi
- Winter Concert
- Trivial Success
- Fall Sports
- Feliz Navidad
- Poetry



Review of Battlefront II

By Wesley Delans



Star Wars: Battlefront II revolves around the imperial special forces team known as Inferno Squad. This highly skilled, black ops team is considered to be the best of the best for the empire.

Also, there can be lag from time to time. If you have a secure internet connection, your game experience should remain unhindered.

would be to make them more cosmetic.

Rather than using petty upgrades, they should give cool paint schemes for clone troopers or other infantry classes.

year. The battle droids look better than their prequel counterparts, that is saying something.

Whether you are a Star Wars fan, or just a fan of shooters,

feeling like blasting droids as the clone troopers, or blasting rebel scum as a Stormtrooper.

This game would definitely make a great addition to a collection and would be a fine purchase for the upcoming holidays.

The story mode takes you to brand new planets from which we have never seen.

From time to time, main characters from the saga make an appearance and you actually get to play as them. Examples like Luke Skywalker, Leia Organa Solo, Lando Calrissian, and even the sinister Kylo Ren.

The events bridge the gap between *Return of the Jedi* and *The Force Awakens*.

You get to see the aftermath of the empire's destruction and the rise to the First Order.



Quotes from critics: "Epic multiplayer battles."-Metacritic; "The same, but better."-digitaltrends; "Accomplishes the feeling of being in the universe."-GameSpot.

A word from Aidan Williams: "Star Wars:Battlefront 2 is a great game, with some flaws that overall is an improvement from the last game."

The classes are great and the heroes, (Luke, Vader, Kylo, etc.) are amazing.

Playing heroes vs villains was hands down some of the most fun I've had playing a video game. However, I do dislike the progression system, as well as the loot boxes. Hopefully, EA will fix these issues soon."

Do note that the story mode is not actually complete, as there will be FREE DLC coming along for both the campaign and multiplayer. The story, for some parts, will make you really patriotic towards the imperial cause.

Now, whether you hate loot boxes or not, they are in the game's multiplayer mode. Contrary to popular belief, they ARE NOT PAY TO WIN. Everything you earn from these loot boxes can actually be earned in-game.

Though at the end of the day, it is fine.

By far the best game mode to play is heroes vs villains. The battles you experience are so dynamic and force you to play differently each time. This game mode, along with the others, is the most fun to play when you have people you know to do it with.

this game is certainly worth your time. If you're looking for strong story, multiplayer, or both, this game is a great time, especially when playing with friends.

In terms of a rating, I would give it a solid four out of five stars. This would certainly improve to a five when the free DLC releases, hopefully improving upon the small issues it faces.

The game is enjoyable for what it is, though it does have some problems with it.

You can only get the best tier of items by actually playing the game, rather than unleashing your wallet on the micro-transactions.

The graphics by far are the best coming out of any game this

There is definitely no better

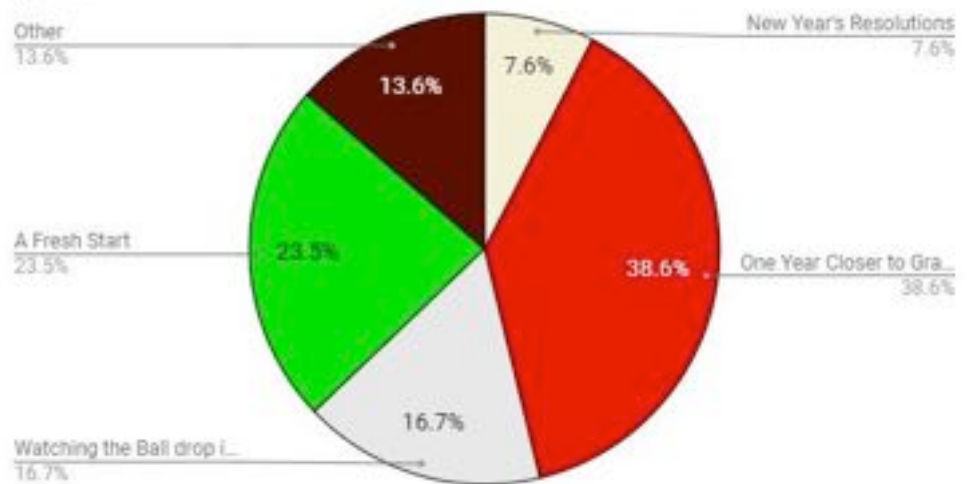
Star Wars: Battlefront 2
Released November 17, 2017
Genre-First/Third person shooter
Published by Electronic Arts
Developed by EA Dice, Motive Studios, Criterion Software

Our favorite fill-ins:

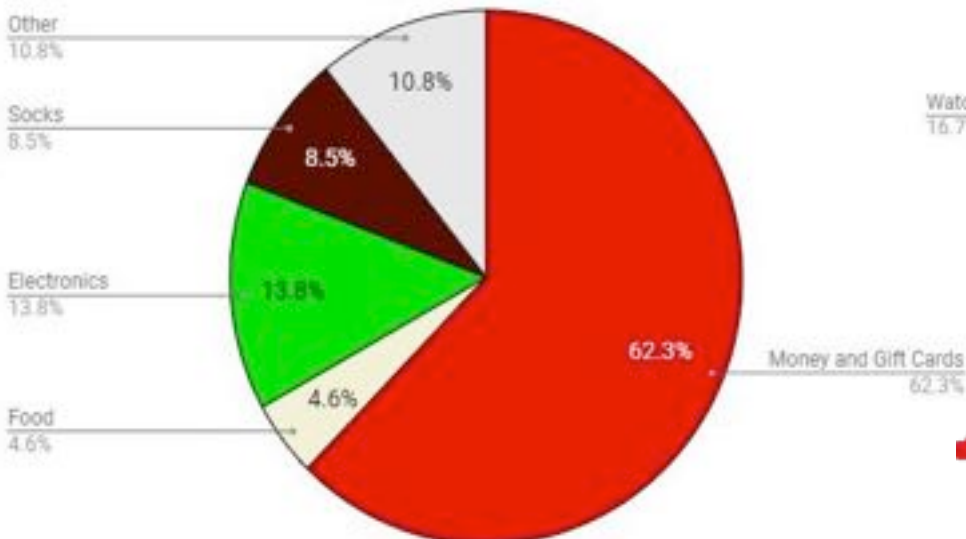
- The new *Star Wars* movie
- Something special
- Heartfelt or handmade gifts



What are you most looking forward to in the new year?



What is your favorite present?



Our favorite fill-ins:

- Arby's: We have the meats
- *Star Wars*
- New semester new classes

Welcome Mrs. Hannon

By **Tori Csanadi**

This year, Northern Lehigh gained a new faculty member in our Social Studies department. Mrs. Hannon is our first female Social Studies teacher in over 30 years.

I had the opportunity to sit down with her and discuss her hopes and fears, in addition to her teaching philosophy.

Mrs. Hannon is an alumni from Panther Valley High School. She has a degree from Cedar Crest College, where she graduated from in 2013.

In 2015, she graduated from the Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina.

She told me she pursued a teaching degree due to her familial background.

She comes from a family of teachers. She chose her specialty, stating "I love history and it's rewarding."

Right now, her favorite class to teach is Civics, as it's the only class she has currently. However, she is very excited to meet her students in U.S. History II.

I asked her about her experiences thus far. Mrs. Hannon explained that she enjoyed the small-student body and that she could personally get to know the students.

She further explained the appeal of community in this area. A personable and supportive faculty makes Northern Lehigh amazing, to her.



She was also impressed by the modern tools used in the

classroom, as our small school did not hinder our academic experiences-in fact, it enhances it.

In this interview, I asked what advice she would give to a teacher starting here on their first day. "Don't be fearful."

She explained further that the faculty here is extremely helpful as she navigates through her first semester. They are patient and do not expect perfection on your first day.

Mrs. Hannon believes that everyone, given the right support, can learn. It is a life-long process, and she herself

is still learning every day.

I concluded the interview by asking her, "If you were a brand, what would be your motto?"

She paused to think for a few seconds and finally told me, "Life is better with others."

Northern Lehigh should feel excited to be able to welcome a new faculty member who embodies the principles of a teacher.

To all who will be taking her classes in the future, I think you're in good hands.

Welcome Mrs. Hannon!



Welcome Back Mrs. Farber!

By **Brianna Schuck**

I had a chance to sit down and ask a few questions to one of Northern Lehigh's best, Mrs. Katherine Farber.

As a former student here, she has a few words of advice to all students now that she's on the opposite side of things.

For all students, "have fun and apply yourself," Mrs. Farber said, "because most students don't take high school seriously, but if you apply yourself now, it helps prepare you for the future."

Aside from advice, I learned all about her own experiences here at Northern Lehigh, and all about how she ended up finding her way back, this time, through the bigger picture of things.

I had asked a few typical questions, such as where she went to college, her degree, and quite a few more.

However, the one that stuck out to me the most was the thing that changed, or didn't, through the halls.

As I asked what are some things that changed, Mrs.

Farber confidently told me "not much."

Besides the teaching staff and new paint, there's not much around these hallways that don't make her feel like I'm at home."

I asked what she meant, curious because being a sophomore, I haven't experienced much here myself. She then told me "As I fulfilled my years as a student here at NLHS, we had pretty rocking sports teams.

Everyone knew where they grew up, and we were all family. Having school spirit and supporting each other was something Northern Lehigh has always been home to.

Although it sucks to see the sports programs struggling, it's great to see students still faithfully participating in spirit week and the pep rally still enthused with all the school spirit students still have, compared to other school districts.

It brings us all closer." She then said that when she left,

she never expected to be back here teaching.

But, when the opportunity came, without hesitation she took the job, because although she loved teaching



elsewhere, she said "nothing compares to teaching at home."

Mrs. Farber and I also joked around a bit and discussed some rather personal but important moments.

For example, her first jobs, her dream job as a kid, favor-

ite things in high school, etc. As a kid, Mrs. Farber always wanted to be a teacher, and she was inspired by her parents who were both teachers.

Growing up, she said if there's one thing she could pick out that she would do differently, it would be to not let all the high school drama bother her.

She said, "looking back now, it was so dumb to get caught up in." Throughout high school, she had her first job at White's Tree Farm and her second job at Dunkin' Donuts. After high school, she furthered her education and graduated with two degrees, one as an elementary school teacher and one as a special education teacher, both from Wilkes University.

A few things that will always stick with her are the things she cherished the most as a student at NLHS.

I had asked her funny things that she sees throughout the hallways now versus when she was a student, and she responded with, "Definitely the language." Joking around,

she also added, "and the many displays of affection." Throwing in a lovely example of making out in Mr. Oertner's corner.

A few more things that she will always remember are her favorite things from high school. Her favorite class was gym, her favorite teacher growing up was Mrs. Steckle, her favorite sport was softball, and her favorite school lunch was tacos (she then added that Bulldog Bowls hadn't quite hit the shelves yet when she was in school).

Mrs. Farber will also be back on the softball field starting this year too, but this time, as a part of the coaching staff.

Mrs. Farber had worked at another district for 8 years prior to the job opening here, and she said immediately she had applied and took the job offer, because as said above, nothing compares to being able to teach where you grew up, and nothing is better than being "home."

Welcome back, Mrs. Farber, and best of luck this softball season!

Season's Greetings from Student Council

By Kristen Guelcher

The holiday season came quickly this year and that means lots of hard work for Student Council.

The holidays are probably one of the busiest times of the year for Student Council considering all the activities we do.

Two of the biggest projects we do during the holiday season are Adopt a Family and Toys for Tots.

Both consist of collecting toys donated by students

and staff, wrapping those gifts, and giving those to children and families in need.

Neither of these events would be possible without the help of everyone who donates.

Another project that Student Council does in the winter is the hot chocolate giveaway.

Every year all of Student Council comes into school early to make nice hot chocolate to give away to

the students and teachers before homeroom.

Spilling burning hot chocolate on your hand isn't always the best but it's definitely worth getting a fresh cup of hot chocolate to wake you up in the morning.

Even though everything turns out fine in the end, something always has to go wrong during the holidays.

This year, decorating the days is Ugly Sweater Day. school was a little bit of a challenge for Student Council.

We stayed after school to deck the halls for Christmas and we ran into some issues with the trees and lack of decorations.

However, this was nothing a quick trip to K-Mart couldn't fix!

One of my personal favorite activities that we do to spread cheer during the holi-

Getting to see everyone's ugly sweaters is always hilarious.

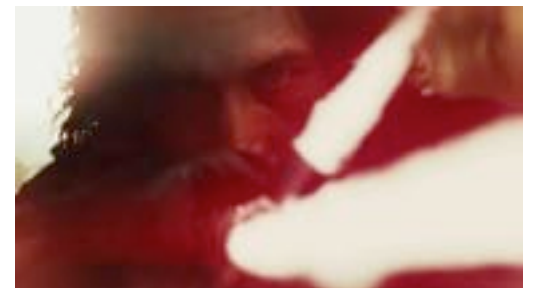
From cheesy homemade sweaters to sweaters with horrible dad-jokes, our school has some of the best.

The holidays are one of the busiest times of the year for us student council members and we put in a lot of hours to make our school full of cheer.



The Last Jedi

By Aiden Williams



This December the Star Wars saga continues! On December 15th, *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* hits theaters everywhere.

The Last Jedi picks up where *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* left off. Rey has found Luke Skywalker and begins training under him. Luke is unsettled by her power in the force.

Finn and a new character, Rose Tico go off on an adventure to help the resistance gain the upper hand in the fight against the first order.

Meanwhile Kylo Ren completes his training under Supreme Leader Snoke. The Last Jedi is the eighth episode in the Skywalker of saga. The last Jedi is said to have a more of a dark tone than previous Star Wars

movies.

It is also said to be one of the most surprising Star Wars movies too.

In a recent interview Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker) said:

"It was as shocking to me to read what Rian (Johnson, the director) had written as I'm sure it will be for the audience"

The Last Jedi promises to make some revaluations that Star Wars fans have been waiting two years for such as who Rey's parents are.

Rian Johnson has promised that this question will be answered in the last jedi.

Another burning question fans have is who is su-

preme leader Snoke. It seems very likely that this question will be answered



as well.

Before watching the last jedi, it is important to watch the previous seven movies, especially the

force awakens.

If you are looking to to learn more about the characters, events, and locations from the last jedi it would be worth checking out any book or comic labeled with "journey to the last jedi."

These books and comics have direct ties to the film. These include phasma, Leia: princess of Alderaan, canto bight, and more.

Star Wars: The Last Jedi, from Lucasfilm, Ltd.

Directed by Rian Johnson

Starring Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver, Mark Ha-

mill, John Boyega, Oscar Isaac, Kelly Marie Tran, Benicio Del Toro, Gwendoline Christie, Andy Serkis, Domhnall Gleeson, Laura Dern, and Carrie Fisher.

In theaters December 15, 2017





The Music Department's Winter Concert

By Trent Herman

This season the band program will put on their annual winter concert on December 12th 2017.

The band consists of a flutes, clarinets, trumpets, trombones, saxophones, drums, and keys.

The band will play four holiday tunes as an ensemble. This years selections are "Swinging jingle" which takes the song "jingle bells" down a more jazzy route.

"Snow Day Celebration" is another piece of music that will be played and is an upbeat, fun, and enthusiastic selection of the concert.

Also, "Ancient Carol" will be played this is to the tune of the classic Christmas song "Oh come O come Emmanuel".

Finally, the concert grand finally is a combination of the band playing Classic Christmas songs that everyone knows and the Choir singing them.

This year the band again has lots of strong musicians with lots of talent. The level of excellence in this band exceeds the limits of expectation.

As well as the band, the choir will also have their annual holiday concert on December 12th 2017.

The choir program is going down a very good path. The new choir teacher, Mr. Schnyderite, is thrilled to be here at Northern Lehigh making the Choir students better and better everyday.

The concert choir will sing Five tunes. "Ring a Ding" is a unique yet challenging song. The whole song basically repeats the same words over and over again and is very bouncy and all over the place, making it a very exciting song to watch.

The choir will also, sing "Antiphonal Deck the Hall" this song is a different version of the classic song "Deck the Hall".

"Snow" is a calm, flowy, and just utterly beautiful when sung by the Northern Lehigh High School Choir. There just aren't many words to describe it.

Also, they will sing "Let it Snow". As Mr. S would say, "Bring out your inner snow day while singing this".

Finally, they will sing a Holiday sing along with the band.

The women's choir will sing two selections with the men's choir "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Al'Shlo Sha". Both are incredible. However, "Al'Shlo Sha" is sung

in Hebrew and is a unique selection.

The women's choir will be singing "The First" Noel", "Silent Night", and "The Winter Wind".

The concert choir class will be singing "S'vi von". This means all the students in class this semester will be featured.

Finally, a trio will perform "Mary did you Know".

Overall, Northern Lehigh has a superior music department and is a very positive place for anyone interested in joining.



In Pursuit of Trivial Success

By Tori Csanadi

Northern Lehigh is home to a vast array of clubs and activities for the students to get involved with. These activities shape us and allow us to use our knowledge and apply ourselves.

This is exactly what the Scholastic Scrimmage team does. Our Scholastic Scrimmage team practices our trivia skills and apply this to academic challenges.

Since the beginning of the school year, the Scholastic Scrimmage team has been practicing weekly, sometimes showing up 45 minutes before school starts!

As early as October, they have been traveling to the PBS studios by Bethlehem Steel Stacks to star in televised Scholastic Scrimmage challenges. In the first round, the team of Matt Schmoyer, Kyle Detweiler, Michael Martineau, and Tori Csanadi

were able to beat Liberty and progress to round 2.

In round 2, this same team came close to beating Southern Lehigh.

While the team did not earn a victory, coming this far in the tournament was a monumental victory for the graduating three seniors on the team.

This loss did not define our team. In a Quiz Bowl tournament at Southern Lehigh a few weeks later, the team of Matt Schmoyer, Kyle Detweiler, Gabe DeLong, and Tori Csanadi were able to progress to semi-finals (seeded 7th).

From here, there would be three more rounds to determine the winner, with each loser in these rounds being eliminated.

Northern Lehigh's team

was almost beaten in the first round by Pingry, pulling ahead by the lowest possible amount of points possible during the last question.

From there, we beat the other Pingry team, advancing to the finals round.

Against another private school yet again, I do not believe any one of us on that team were expecting to come out on top.

As a small, underfunded public school, it seemed laughable to assume we would be lucky enough to beat Phillipsburg.

Yet, with only four more questions to go, the math did not lie. There was no possible way this team could beat us. Thus, we received a victory as the underdogs.

In an exclusive interview with the Scholastic Scrimmage advisor, Mr. Michael Lehtonen, describes his surprise. "I knew it was possible we could do it," he said, "Winning the championship was a welcomed surprise that I hope inspires the students here to not feel they are limited by being at a public school. We can easily beat schools that require tuition".

To the students at Northern Lehigh, I encourage you to take this victory of the Scholastic Scrimmage team and apply it to yourself.

You do not need to attend a private school to be successful. You can find success here at Northern Lehigh.



Fall Sports: Good Job and Good Luck Seniors!

By Brianna Schuck

As the fall sports season finally came to an end, there are many stories and memories each athlete will look back on.

From the field hockey team sticking TOGETHER, the football team preaching FAMILY, the cross country team, strongly believing in #DAVE, and both soccer teams strongly supporting each other all season long, the fall sports season was not as bad as everyone thinks. Although the fall season may have seemed to drag out, there are many amazing highlights from many stellar athletes this fall.

Starting with the football team, who finished 0-10, no one made all league or honorable mentions, but there were a few awards given out at the annual fall awards night, which took place on November 2nd.

These awards and recipients are as following:

Outstanding Offensive Lineman- Branden Dye

Outstanding Offensive Back- Mason Seiler

Outstanding Defensive Lineman- Branden Dye

Outstanding Defensive back- Zach Long & Gage Hunsicker

The Team Captains for the 2017 season were: Branden Dye, Zach Long, Mason Seiler, and Justin Paul.

The girls soccer team may have finished 1-11 in the league and 1-16-1 overall.

However, they didn't go down without a fight! They also welcomed a share of new and familiar faces to the turf, meanwhile suffering a few injuries.

Starting with the seniors, Jill Olewine was the Offensive MVP and led the team with 22 goals.

She was also named a first team all league forward; congrats Jill and best of luck at Misericordia! Lexi Meckes received an award for Defensive MVP, and Katie Yesik led the team with seven assists. Congrats ladies on a hard, yet promising, season!

The boys soccer team went 0-12 in the league and 0-18 overall,

but they still had fun during this season. In the end, you have to make the best out of every sticky situation.

In addition, Josh Sollars and Quinton Mack received MVP Awards, and Jerod Czarnecki received the Scholar Athlete Award.

The field hockey team had a future-promising season this year, as they finished 8-8 in the league and 9-9 overall.

They pushed their way into districts for the 11th year, but came up short in the quarterfinals 2-1 to Becahi.

Aside from the stats, at the fall awards night Junior Amber Cieri received an award for MVP, Sophomore Jada Mills received the Outstanding Offensive Player Award, and Seniors Abby Quigley and Katie Ziegler received the Outstanding Defensive Player Awards.

Even greater, Jada Mills and Amber Cieri were both named to the Second Team All League:

Jada as a forward and Amber as a mid fielder. Last but not least: the cross country teams!

Starting with the girls who finished 11-13 overall, took 5th as a whole at the league meet. The boys finished 8-16 overall and took 6th as a whole at the league meet.

Individually, Sophomore Reagan Pender took 5th at the league meet and propelled herself into Districts, where she placed.

Following her placing at Districts, she ended up finishing 48th out of over 200 girls at States with a place time of 20:31.

But, it doesn't stop there. Reagan also was named First Team All League Girls XC this year, as she came off of an injury from her Freshman year. Congrats Reagan!

Junior Katie Guelcher and Sophomore Alison Lorah also had phenomenal seasons, and

they were both Honorable Mentions Girls XC, and Preston Kemery was an Honorable Mention for Boys XC.

Congrats Katie, Ali, and Preston! At Fall Awards Night, Preston Kemery and Reagan Pender each received MVP Awards.

Best of luck to all seniors, Tori Csanadi, Kyle Detweiler, Hunter Haas, Kyle Kremasky, and Jason Pepe, and keep believing in Dave and never retire the BigHead! Collectively, that's a wrap on the 2017-2018 Fall Sports Season at NLHS, but many fall athletes keep grinding in the offseason.

Congratulations to each of you hard working athletes, and best of luck to all seniors as you may continue your careers elsewhere!

Be sure to catch the basketball teams, wrestlers, and cheerleaders at home and on the road this year, and get ready to start warming up for softball, baseball, and track this spring! Good luck to all athletes and seniors!

¡Feliz Navidad!

By Blake Schuck

As Christmas Day approaches, many Christians across the world will come together to celebrate the popular holiday.

However, Hispanic people have their own unique ways to celebrate Christmas, a holiday that many people hold dear to their hearts.

To many Hispanic families, Christmas Eve, or Nochebuena, is a fantastic way for the festivities to commence!

Different families celebrate Nochebuena uniquely, holding their own traditions based on Christianity and their native countries.

Before Christmas, many Hispanics celebrate nine days prior, which they call "posadas."

This celebration is essentially meant to recreate Joseph and Mary searching for shelter to have the baby Jesus, as illustrated through caroling and kind sayings.

Food is a large part of the Hispanic celebration, especially on Nochebuena.

Many families prepare various foods, but one of the main dishes are called "tamales," which are composed of seasoned meat, wrapped in cornmeal dough and corn husks. Some people even include raisins and nuts!

In many Caribbean islands, barbecue pig, known as "lechón asado" is the primary

course for the festivities.

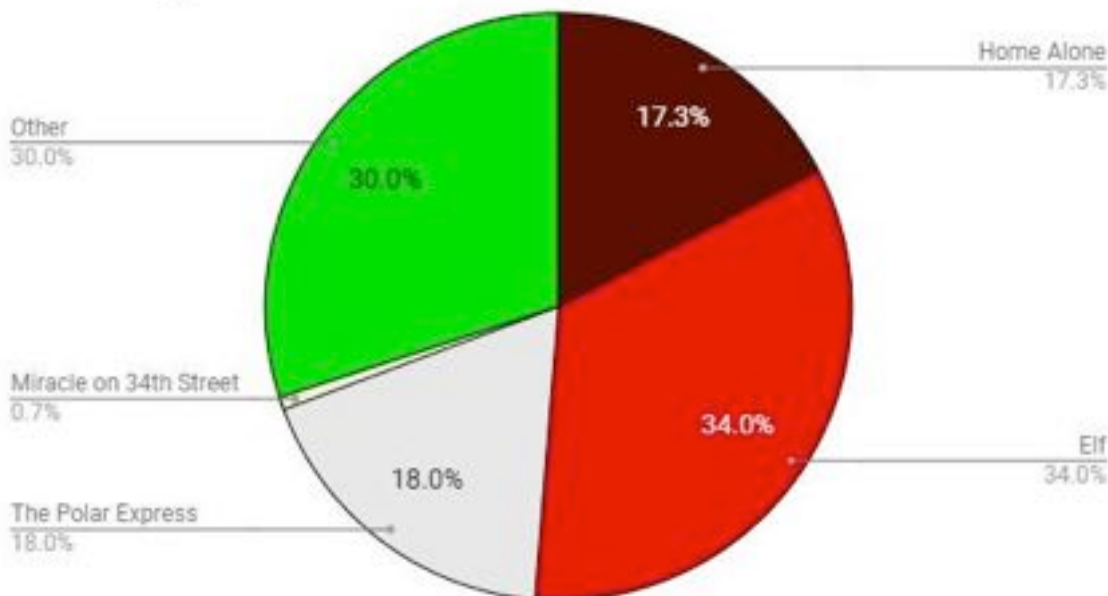
Finally for dessert, many families bake sweet bread, varying by region.

After Nochebuena, children play with "chispitas" (sparklers, smoke bombs, and firecrackers), while the adults prepare the larger fireworks for an end-of-the-holiday show!

As the festivities dwindle down, many households attend a midnight mass, called "misa de gallo" to celebrate one last time.

No matter what is celebrated in your household, it is interesting to learn different ways cultures observe their celebratory days! Happy holidays!

What is your favorite holiday movie?



Our favorite fill-ins:

- Star Wars
- Die Hard
- Shrek the Halls



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The Criticized Dandelion

By Blake Schuck

The criticized dandelion basks in the sun's daily rays,
Because he is a people pleaser in various ways.
But he is not merely one to make the ladybug feel better;
He cannot be criticized if the ladybug is happy for days.

Oh, but the troubled dandelion continues to say:
"You're beautiful, ladybug, in all wonderful ways!"
Although he does not mean this, he must continue,
For he cannot be ridiculed if he gives the ladybug praise.

Then, all of the ladybug, in her desirable talks,
Says lies to the dandelion to make him believe mocks.
Yet, the dandelion continues with this oppression,
Because he cannot be condemned along these walks.

But alas, the dandelion is tired and about to die,
And that is satisfactory, for the ladybug did little to try.
Oh, the dandelion cannot continue the lies he feeds,
For he only gives praise to make the ladybug comply.

A long time ago, in a school paper far, far away...

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