

Davenport School Scoop!



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Celebrate the Holidays!

By: Jennie Coral

There are many holiday traditions celebrated around the world. It's always fun to spend the season with family and friends. For Hanukkah, a tradition is to set up the Menorah. For Christmas, some people set up the Nativity. For Kwanzaa, some African Americans set up a Kinara.



The Menorah represents the miracle of the candle oil lasting 8 days.

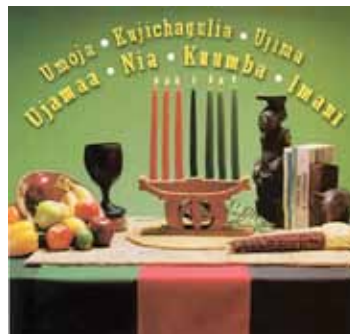
The Kwanzaa tradition is lighting the seven candle Kinara. Each candle represents one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa and the color of the candles represents the colors of the African flag. The Hanukkah tradition of lighting a Menorah uses a candle holder for eight candles. This represents how the

Jewish people were unable to find enough oil to light the menorah. They found enough oil for one night but it surprisingly lasted for 8 nights. Now it's tradition to light a candle for each night of the nights of Hanukkah. The

Christmas tradition of setting up the Nativity comes from the nativity story of how the Virgin Mary had baby Jesus in a stable.



The nativity represents the coming of Jesus.



The Kinara represents the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

Even though there are many different traditions celebrated in many places all over the world, it's always a happy holiday season when people are with family and friends. Happy Holidays!

Dsa Welcomes Another New Teacher!

By: Lydia Perez



The year 2012 has brought many changes to DSA, including the addition of over 120 middle school students and more than a dozen middle school teachers. Now DSA has added a new teacher to the family. Her name is Ms. Deans and she teaches visual arts to 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, mini majors and majors. Ms. Deans is from Cincinnati, Ohio and went to school at the University of Dayton. Ms. Deans lives with her parents and sister near Orlando but her family is from Virginia and Georgia. This is Ms. Deans' first year as a teacher.

Ms. Deans is thrilled to be part of the DSA family and students are looking forward to learning new things in visual arts with her.

PREP FOR WINTER WEATHER

BY HANNAH WOOD

Planning to go away for the holidays? Many DSA teachers and students are. What might they encounter in their travels? Heading down south for the break, be prepared for swim suits and volleyball, plus get ready for an average high of 75 and an average low of 63. Those going up north are going to need a jacket and mittens and



will watch out for an average high of only 40 and an average low of 29. What about staying home? Davenport, Florida is going to face an average high of 73 and an average low of 52.

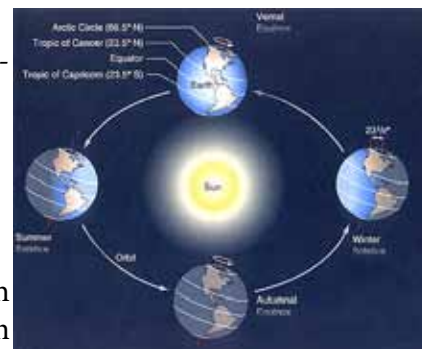
Other heads up:			
Miami High	New York High	Princeton WV High	Seneca SC High
75	40	43	52
Low	Low	Low	Low
63	29	27	31

Take A Chill Pill

By: Cristopher Poisson

The shortest day has a name and its called Winter Solstice.

The Winter Solstice occurs on December 22nd and lasts for one whole day. The Winter Solstice has exactly 12 hours of daylight and exactly 12 hours of night. It is when the South Pole is tilted 25 degrees away from the sun. According to the Gregorian calendar the Winter Solstice occurs between December 21st and December 23rd. On this date anything above 66.5 degrees north is now completely dark while anything below 66.5 degrees south has 24 hours of daylight. That means anybody living above 66.5 north will have lots of opportunity to sleep and anybody below 66.5 south will have plenty of play time. The good news is that students in Davenport will begin to see more sun after the holiday break.



JACK IS BACK

By Isaiah Sarria

Is Jack Frost a villain, or is he just an ordinary elf? Who exactly is Jack Frost? Jack Frost is an elf that represents the cold weather, ice, and frost. He is known as a mischievous, sinister, trouble maker. Jack Frost is a very friendly person but if he were to be aggravated, he would cover his victims in snow.

Jack Frost originated from the Viking Lore because of the Old English god Woden (also known as Old Man Winter) whom represents cold weather. He sometimes appears



The character Jack Frost appeared in the movie Santa Clause 2.

in Christmas entertainment such as poetry, books, film (movies) and/or video games. Sometimes he is playful with children or a merciless, mischievous killer. In the movie "Year Without Santa Claus", he had the ability to create and blow frost and blizzard winds.

Jack Frost is no ordinary elf, but a representative of the cold, who is sometimes friendly, mischievous, and/or merciless. Jack Frost can be the kind of person, that when he is aggravated, can be a person's worst enemy.

THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS

By: Dylan Falevitch

3...2...1...HAPPY NEW YEAR!

People celebrate Dec. 31st and Jan. 1st to celebrate a year going by and to start a new year. People have their own ways of celebrating, but the most common celebrations are watching the Times Square ball drop, making New Year's resolutions and many more.

New Year's celebrations are in the air. One of the most common celebrations is the Times Square Ball Drop, which takes place in Times Square, New York City, New York. The ball was first dropped in 1907 and since has dropped every year except 1942 and 1943 due to wartime blackouts. Some DSA students have their own celebrations. Eighth grader Tamron Alexander said "We go to New York and watch the ball drop". Another common celebration is making New Year's resolutions. A New Year's resolution is when people want to achieve a goal they did not



complete the previous year.

The smell of New Year's is in the air. Common foods are pork with sauerkraut, fish, and cooked

greens. The most common New Year's foods are cakes and baked foods. A Cuban tradition is to eat 12 grapes at the stroke of midnight. The 12 grapes signify the 12 months of the previous year.

Here are some tips to remain safe for the New Year. If someone is intoxicated do not enter the car with them. Always stick together so it won't be hard to get lost. Be alert because New Year's Eve parties could be crazy and fast-paced.

Be safe and have fun. New Year's is important to many American's and it is also celebrated around the world. Having fun doesn't mean being crazy or acting dumb. New Year's is a time for family and celebration.

The Truth Behind Xmas

By: Darren Ross

Some people believe that "Xmas" is not the proper or polite way to say *Christmas*. That is surely not true. *Xmas* is a common abbreviation of the word *Christmas*. It is often pronounced *Eksmas*.

The letter *X* comes from the Greek letter Chi, which is the first Greek letter of the word *Χριστός*, which means *Christ*. The *mas* part is the Latin word for *mass*, which is one of the names for the church service in the Roman Catholic Church. Using the abbreviation of *Xmas* is commonly disliked because many think it is an attempt to take Christ away from Christmas; but actually, "Xmas" literally means "Christ-worship".

Even though some people feel that *Xmas* is not the proper way to say or write *Christmas*, knowing the meaning behind it may change their minds.

(source: <http://ancienthistory.about.com/od/>)



Chocolate Gets 8 Stars

By:Destiny Hatfield

Everyone loves cookies, especially this time of the year. The cookies in this taste-test tasted so good that the taste testers rated them as an average of 8.3! The cookie was very easy to make. The prep time took approximately 15 to 17 minutes to mix and 10 minutes to bake. When asked, the taste testers said "WE LOVE THE COOKIES".

INGREDIENTS:

- **Crisco®** Original No-Stick Cooking Spray
- **1 1/2** cups firmly packed brown sugar
- **2/3** cup **Crisco®** Butter Flavor All-Vegetable Shortening
- OR **2/3** stick **Crisco®** Baking Sticks Butter Flavor All-Vegetable Shortening
- **1** tablespoon water
- **1** teaspoon vanilla extract
- **2** large eggs
- **1 1/2** cups **Pillsbury BEST®** All Purpose Flour



Cookies go well with a cup of coffee or hot chocolate.

- **1/3** cup cocoa powder
- **1/2** teaspoon salt
- **1/4** teaspoon baking soda
- **1 (12 oz.)** package semi-sweet chocolate chips (2 cups)
- Powdered sugar (optional)

PREPARATION DIRECTIONS:

1. HEAT oven to 350°F. Coat baking sheets with no-stick cooking spray.
2. BEAT brown sugar, shortening, water and vanilla with electric mixer at medium speed until well blended. Beat in eggs. Combine flour, cocoa, salt and baking soda. Mix into shortening mixture at low speed just until blended. Stir in chocolate chips. Drop by rounded measuring tablespoonfuls 2 inches apart onto prepared baking sheets.
3. BAKE 8 to 10 minutes or until cookies are set. Cool 2 minutes on baking sheet. Place on cooling rack to cool completely. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Enjoy!

Famous Birthdays Spotted!

By Caleb Taylor

Merry Christmas and...Happy Birthday? December has Christmas, and it is the birthday month for a lot of famous people.

On December 2nd the famous singer, Britney Spears, has her birthday. The famous Ozzy Osbourne, who was the leader of the band: "Black Sabbath", has his birthday on December 3rd. Walt Disney, who made Walt Disney World, has his birthday on Dec 5th. When Dec. 8th rolls around, Nicki Minaj, a Hip-hop star, enjoys her birthday. He is famous for science, and has his birthday on the 25th: he is the scientist, Isaac Newton. Two people on



December 30th have birthdays. They are Tiger Woods, a famous golfer, and Davy Jones, singer of the band, "The Monkees". December 31st only has one famous birthday, and that is Anthony Hopkins, who is a Movie actor.

A lot of famous people have birthdays in December, but a lot of people, such as students and teachers at DSA, have birthdays in December also. So along with the holiday celebrations, many will be celebrating Happy Birthday!