

The Bagpiper

December 20, 2016

Reporting Freeman's news since 2009

Volume 9, Issue 2

And the Golden Garment winners are...



Photo by Pia Longinotti

Seniors Ben Darcy and Brandon Campbell synchronize their standing backflips for the halftime dance finale.



Photo by Heather Bykerk

... your **Freeman Scotties!**

'Tis the season for another fun PTSG Craft Night for kids

By Grace Holt
Staff Writer

The PTSG members put together another successful Craft Night. Craft Night is where the Freeman students get to make homemade crafts to give to their family or friends for Christmas. This year, there were about 100 kids that participated in this event.



Photo by Grace Holt

Third grader Rylee Russell is already in the holiday spirit wearing her big reindeer antlers while holding two jars of steak rub she said she made for her family for Christmas.

The craft stations are run by the PTSG members and parents that volunteer their time to run them. Every year they budget about \$1200 towards the crafts and the supplies so the kids can make free Christmas gifts. They also had a raffle, sold homemade treats and asked for donations to offset the cost of the event. The 12 raffle items raised \$205, the treats raised \$130 and other donations totaled about \$25.

The Craft Night was very well attended and the kids enjoyed this event. A big thank you goes out to the PTSG members and volunteers that made this event fun and one to remember!



Photo by Grace Holt

Forth graders Rowan McGarity and Annie Scheine gather around their craft station to take a picture with the wooden reindeer they proudly made.

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Trump's 100 Day Plan: global trade, education, and environment addressed

By Savannah Sousa

Staff Writer

On January 20, President-Elect Donald Trump will be sworn in as our new president for the next four years. Our country will have to accept that Trump will be our new President and not try and change that by rioting in the streets and raising funds for a recount. America needs to look past November 8 and look towards the future. Instead of getting angry about what has happened, we need to look towards the future and Trump's plans for the future.

Trump's first 100 days in office actually seem pretty promising. Illegal aliens will get a few more months to live here before they are kicked out because there's absolutely no mention of the deportation of illegal aliens in the plan. Instead, Trump plans to "put America first" as he says in his video address.

What that looks like is pulling America out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations with Asia, which is a negotiation between 12 countries, including the US. They help write the rules for global trade and stand up for other rights like worker rights and child care. But in the same sense, it is also taking jobs away from inside our country which is definitely not okay. Even if it is cheaper, I think we can all say we would love to see a piece of clothing or something that says made in the USA. Am I Right? Trump has said that he has sold all of his stocks that are linked with global trade, but he hasn't made a statement about stopping all of his company's overseas production. He could still have some of his productions being done overseas. If he does, then he is walking a fine line on being a hypocrite.

Trump's plan is to also reduce environmental restrictions which is good and bad. Trump says that "he will cancel job-restrictions on the production of American energy, including shale energy and clean coal" and create "many millions of high paying jobs." Which is good if he can create more jobs for our country. At the same time, climate change experts fear that Trump's plans could create irreparable damage to the environment. However, this issue will actually be taken to the Supreme Court by kids our age and younger in early 2017. The case is from a large group of kids from ages 9-20 who have a real concern for the environment and who want a livable environment without having to wear face masks when they are older. They think that politicians in general have failed to see the real problem with climate change, and the kids are hoping to change that in 2017.

The topic that affects students most is Trump's education plan. Trump plans to put more federal money into the states' school system. He will also allow those funds to be distributed by the state not the Federal Government. He is also going to work with Congress to help reform the cost of college. If his plan works, by the time re-elections come around, the cost of going to college may be cheaper. But we will have to see what happens in this next coming year.

With Republicans controlling both the Senate and Congress, Trump should have no problems getting these things done. For those of you planning to leave the country, I would hold onto your hats. If I were you, I would want to stick around to see how his 100 Day plan unfolds. I really do believe that Trump will get these things done and that he will focus on getting America back to where it needs to be. If he screws up more than what is already screwed up, he will have no one to blame but himself.



Courtesy of Pete Souza, Whitehouse.org
Trump and Obama having the historic November 10 White House meeting after the election.

Teachers' favorite Christmas memories

By Riley McLuskie

Staff Writer

Do you ever wonder what your teacher's favorite Christmas memory is? All of the teachers have memories, they just haven't had the opportunity to share them with you.

Band teacher James Jydstrup said that his favorite Christmas memory is watching his son experience snow for the first time.

"We bundled little Kevin in his snow gear and put him on the ground," Jydstrup said. "He picked up a handful of snow and proceeded to put it in his mouth. He was shocked at first with how cold it was, but then smiled and laughed. By the end of the day, we were rolling around in the snow and having snow fights."

Business Ed teacher Scott Moore said his favorite memory was when he was 35 years old. His entire family got together for Christmas Eve, all seven kids and their families. They had dinner, a Christmas service and a gift exchange.

"It's always special," Moore explained. "With my mom and dad both gone, those memories are even more special. I'll never forget the year at church when mom was playing the organ and dad on the piano. They were playing *Hallelujah Chorus*. It was so loud and moving that my family stood and applauded, which you never did in my church. We were so proud and moved!"

Math and Science teacher Angela Frye said that her favorite Christmas memory is the time she spent Christmas in the hospital.

It was the Christmas her son was born.

"I was having some problems with my pregnancy, so my doctor made me check into the hospital," Frye remembered. "Two days after Christmas, my son was born."

Art teacher Ken Spiering's favorite Christmas memory are all the road trips to the North Plains, Hillsboro Oregon areas every Christmas from when he was one to 18.

Health and Fitness teacher Chad Ripke said that his favorite Christmas memories are watching his kids get up to see that Santa has come.

"The excitement level of my kids makes it priceless," Ripke said. "Each year it's a little different as this year all three of my kids will be excited, where last year Easton was a little too young. The holiday season is fun with my children and wife. Each year brings watching a *Christmas Story*, *Elf*, *Christmas Vacation*, *The Grinch* and others. But seeing my children and their excitement level each year brings happiness to my wife and I. First it was only one child, then two. Now it will be three kids waking up and basically running to the living room to see what Santa has brought them."



Courtesy of Ken Spiering

Ken Spiering and his brothers take a family photo. He is the tallest one in the back.

SOARS teacher Deena Jackson's favorite Christmas memory was her beautiful ankle length skirt she got when she was 11.

"It had three different colors and flowed as I turned in a circle, and then it kept going when I stopped," Jackson explained. "I felt very special."

As you can see, teachers have a life outside of school. They love Christmas just as much as the students do.



Photo by Riley McLuskie

Scott Moore, Ken Spiering, and Chad Ripke pose for a picture next to the Tree of Sharing.



Courtesy of Angela Frye

Angela Frye hugs her son Will who was born two days after Christmas.

Make time to bake some holiday treats

By Grace Holt
Staff writer

The Christmas and the holiday season is time to spend with your family, have fun and make memories. One thing most families enjoy doing is making holiday treats and dinners. Here are some simple and easy recipes you can make this holiday season. Enjoy the recipes on this page or make some of your family's favorites. Don't forget to make enough to share!

Peppermint Oreo Truffles

Ingredients:

1 package of Oreos
1 package of cream cheese
¾ teaspoon of peppermint extract

16 ounces of finely chopped chocolate
1 tablespoon of vegetable oil
2 regular sized candy canes, crushed

Directions: Place all the Oreos into a food processor and pulse until fine. Add the cream cheese and peppermint extract until smooth and blended. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper and scoop the mixture into 1 inch balls and place them on the sheet. Place the cookie balls in the freezer for a couple hours. When the balls are chilled, place the chopped chocolate and oil into a microwaveable bowl. Microwave in 30 second increments, stirring in between them. do not overheat. Drop each ball into the melted chocolate, coating evenly. Remove the ball with a fork, quickly placing them onto the cookie sheet again. Before they dry, sprinkle them with the crushed candy canes. Repeat with the remaining is the balls and refrigerate before serving. (<http://www.handletheheat.com/peppermint-oreo-truffle/>)

Gingerbread Cookies

Ingredients:

3 1/4 cups all-purpose
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
1/2 cup packed dark-brown sugar
1 Tablespoon ground ginger
1 Tablespoon ground cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon finely ground black pepper (optional)
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 large egg
1/2 cup unsulfured molasses

Directions: In a large bowl, sift together flour, baking soda, and spices. Set aside. In an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the butter and sugar together on medium-high speed until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add in eggs and molasses, and beat on medium speed until combined. Gradually add the flour mixture on low speed, and beat until combined. (You may need to work the dough with your hands to incorporate the last bit of flour, since it gets really thick!) Divide the dough in thirds, form each third into a round ball, and wrap each third in plastic. Chill in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour or overnight. When you're ready to bake the cookies, heat oven to 350°F. Remove the dough from the refrigerator and let it sit out at room temperature for 5-10 minutes. Then place a dough third on a large piece of lightly floured surface. Using a floured rolling pin, roll the dough evenly until it is 1/8-inch thick. Use a cookie cutter to cut the dough into your desired shapes. (If you're using red hots for "buttons", press the candy pieces in the center of each cookie at this point.) Transfer to parchment-covered baking sheets. Bake until crisp but not darkened, 8 to 10 minutes. Remove from oven. Let sit a few minutes and then use a metal spatula to transfer cookies to a wire rack to cool completely. Decorate as desired. (<http://www.gimmesomeoven.com/gingerbread-cookies/>)

Easy Peppermint Bark:

Ingredients:

12 ounces of Chocolate Chips
12 ounces of White Chocolate Chips
½ cup of crushed candy canes

Directions: Line the bottom of a 9x11 pan with parchment paper. In a microwave bowl, melt the bag of chocolate chips in increments of 30 seconds. Every 30 seconds make sure you take it out and stir it until it's perfectly smooth. Spread the melted chocolate down on the pan. Place the pan into the freezer for 20 minutes. Repeat step number 2 for the white chocolate chips. Remove pan from freezer and spread white chocolate on top of the chocolate layer. When it's all evened out, sprinkle the remaining of the crushed candy cane pieces onto the chocolate. Put the pan back into the freezer for a couple more hours to fully harden. When it's done, take the pan out of the freezer and break the candy into pieces. Store in fridge. (<http://savorysweetlife.com/2009/11/easy-peppermint-bark-recipe/>)

Simple Icing

Ingredients:

2 cups powdered sugar
2-3 Tablespoons milk
1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions: Whisk all ingredients together in a bowl until smooth. If your icing is too thin, add in a little more powdered sugar. If your icing is too thick, add in a tiny bit of milk. Use a piping bag, or a Ziploc bag (with the corner snipped off), or a plastic squeeze bottle to pipe the icing onto the cookies. (<http://www.gimmesomeoven.com/gingerbread-cookies/>)



Photo by Grace Holt

Christmas by the numbers, according to FHS

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FREEMAN'S TOP 5 FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONGS

- 1 *All I want For Christmas*
- 2 *Jingle Bells*
- 3 *Carol of the Bells*
- 4 *Feliz Navidad*
- 5 *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer*

Infograph by Grace Holt

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FREEMAN'S TOP 5 LEAST FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONGS

- 1 *Jingle Bells*
- 2 *Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer*
- 3 *Frosty the Snowman*
- 4 *Santa Baby*
- 5 *Little Drummer Boy*

Infograph by Grace Holt

What will you watch over Christmas Break?

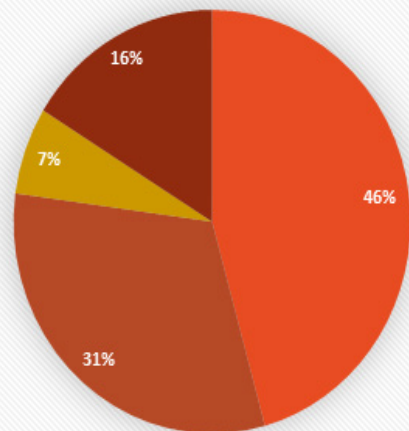


Chart by Mariah Lindsley

Top 5 Christmas movies

- #1. CHRISTMAS VACATION
- #2. ELF
- #3. HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS
- #4. HOME ALONE
- #5. THE POLAR EXPRESS

Infograph by Heather Bykerk

Where do Freeman families spend Christmas break

By Sydney Warrick
Staff writer

Over Christmas break, the majority of Freeman families usually spend their vacation days at home with their families.

Sophomore Lamak Sewell said he usually doesn't take trips and spends them at home with his family.

"I like to stay home and go sledding down my driveway."

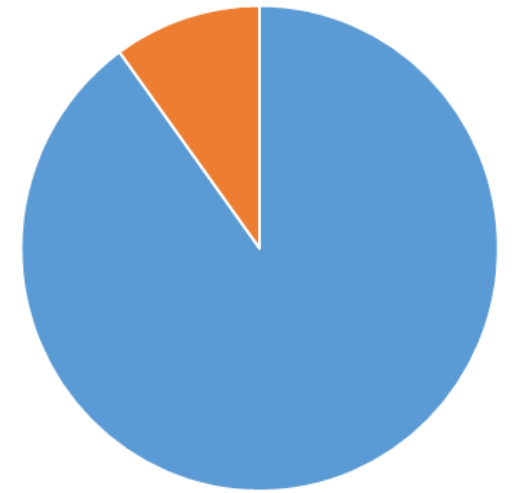
Sophomore Evan Gilbert said he went Mexico for Christmas; that's some warmer weather. The number one reason Gilbert's family went was because of temperature. Maybe it's too cold?

According to math teacher Peggy Wells, it's never too cold to leave the house.

"We have never gone a vacation on Christmas," Wells explained. "We always stay home."

So overall our results were that most Freeman families stay home during Christmas break.

Staying home vs. going on trips



■ staying home ■ going on trips

The bag's a little light, but it really doesn't matter

By Kelly Wright
Editor

The holiday season is a time for family, cozy fires, hot chocolate, and just a general atmosphere of peachiness and security. And one thing that is usually present every holiday season is, well, presents.

Getting into technical terms, the amount of presents you get is usually a direct correlation of your family's income. However, what is *not* a direct correlation is your enjoyment of the holiday season and how many presents you get, according to an anonymous survey conducted by *The Bagpiper*.

Now here are some fresh statistics that will, shockingly, back up this claim. Of the 105 respondents, 83.8% said that the amount of gifts they got didn't have any effect on their holiday enjoyment. And additionally, 63.8% of those surveyed said that their budget did not have any effect on their enjoyment either.

Students were also asked to write an optional response on what the holiday season really means to them; here are the few that stood out amongst the rest.

"Holidays, to me, are the best time of the year. I was adopted so I have a lot to be [thank]ful for. Gifts aren't important to me. God gave me a second chance with a loving family. I have a house and people who care about me. That's all I could ever ask for. They mean everything to me. That's more important than gifts or money. I love them... that's all I need."

"It means seeing dad every Christmas no matter how many strings were pulled to bring him home from deployment."

"I love the holiday season because it brings everyone together. It helps people become more selfless and it also is a good time to celebrate Christ."

"It means that you spread love and joy and everyone should have the warm fuzzy feeling that I get during the holidays. Also Jesus was born and he's pretty darn cool."

"Christmas is a time of celebration [and] joy. It symbolizes the birth of Christ, Savior [and] Redeemer of the World."

Now this last one a lot of the young folk will get around here, so you old folks, don't get too confused; It's also a pretty good way to sum up what holidays are like for most people.

"It is dumb lit."

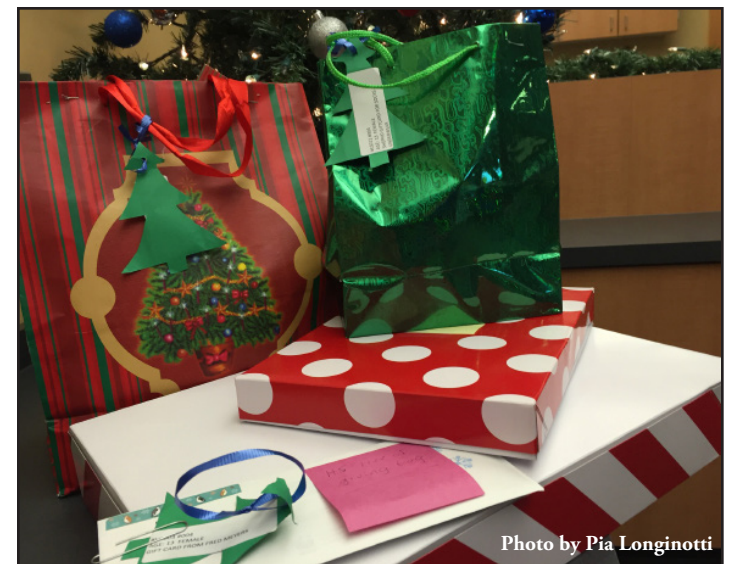


Photo by Pia Longinotti

Rowling does it again, *Fantastic Beasts* leaves us wondering what's next?

By Savannah Sousa
Staff writer

J.K. Rowling once again enchants us with a wizarding world from the 1920's New York in *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. This world isn't like the *Harry Potter* movies but a completely new enchanted era. We enter a world of dark magic that makes the *Harry Potter* series look like children movies.

Fantastic Beasts follows Magizoologist Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) who arrives in New York when danger lurks around every corner. Something mysterious is leaving a path of destruction in the streets, threatening to expose the wizard world in America to the second Salamanders a zealous faction of No-Maj's (American for Muggles) bent on eliminating them.

Redmayne is joined by Katherine Waterston, who plays Tina Goldstein, an investigator for the Magical Congress of the USA. They both go on a wild adventure looking for lost magical beasts and trying to help people understand that these beasts aren't hurting people but something much darker in wizarding world.

Fantastic Beasts has something for everyone in it. If you're a totally techy, then you will totally love the specs in this film. Director David Yates takes us through a magical journey through the beasts' worlds. He takes us place to place through a magical rainfor-



Courtesy of Fantasticbeastsandwheretofindthem.com

Newt Scamander observes the shy Bowtruckle with Kowalski as they take a tour through Scamander's suitcase of wonders.

est to the cold arctic even too a warm paradise island. Also, the special effects make the spells seem so realistic, actually looks like the spells are being performed and the outcome is fantastic.

What really made this movie spark is that you got to feel magical again. You got to see all those spells that we all did when we little. I know for me; my little sister was doing spells on the way home from the theaters. What's so great is that this new generation can live in this magical world like we did.

If you were looking for the connection between *Fantastic Beast* and *Harry Potter* movies, you'll find few connections between these two chains. You'll find Newt Scamander who wrote the book *Fantastic Beasts and*

Where to Find Them and it was shown in years 2 and 3 of the HP books. We will most likely see a younger version of Dumbledore in the upcoming movies. This is a completely new chain of movies but it also still has some connections to the HP chain.

Fantastic Beast and Where to Find Them is appropriate for ages 12 and up. It does have some scary scenes that might cause you to jump and the themes in the movie aren't the best. It has some dark elements in it and does show some creepy creatures. Overall, this movie does do its job when it comes to the wizarding world and bringing us into the enchanting world.



Courtesy of Fantasticbeastsandwheretofindthem.com

The Niffler beast is flying through the air trying to catch the gold and silver jewelry that got thrown up.