

THE SIGNAL

SHAMOKIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

thesignal@indians.k12.pa.us

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December 2021: ed IX

Downtown Christmas and Tharptown lights add to the “most wonderful time of the year”

By Emily Honicker, *staff writer/photographer*

Families and friends gathered for GoShamokin’s annual Home for the Holidays celebration Nov. 27 on Independence Street, Shamokin, during the day, and then moved on to Tharptown later that evening to enjoy the formal opening of the Dunn Family’s Annual Christmas Display.

At the Home for the Holidays event, strolling musicians, dance companies, and theater groups entertained crowds. A petting zoo, located on Ninth Street, also was available. At the conclusion of the celebration, the annual Light up Lincoln walking tour got underway with costumed narrators giving short presentations about the history of Shamokin. Twenty-eight vendors participated.

Meanwhile, crowds gathered later in Tharptown to view the expanded display, which features lighted figures and painted wooden cutouts of cartoon characters such as *Disney’s Elsa, Anna, and Olaf, Mickey Mouse and friends, Sesame Street* characters, *Hello Kitty, The Grinch, Rudolph, Frosty, SpongeBob, Phineas and Ferb, Strawberry Shortcake*, to name a few.



A Christmas choir is front and center of the 2021 Dunn Family Christmas Display in Tharptown. (Photo by Marcus Moyer, *sports co-editor/photographer*)

Students or faculty: If there is anyone who is an artist, poet, writer, etc. and would like to submit their work to *The Signal*, please email your work and ideas to us at the address at the top of the page!

Chorus carols at Knoebels

By Hannah Hess, *features editor*

All was merry and bright on December 18 when students from Shamokin Area High School’s chorus went caroling at The Nickel Plate Restaurant as a part of Knoebels’ winter festivities. Hot chocolate was flowing and lights were twinkling as the group entertained restaurant customers outside of the restaurant. The group got people in the holiday spirit as they dressed in festive attire and sang holiday selections like “Frosty the Snowman” and “Jingle Bells”. Though it was cold outside, the chorus warmed the hearts of onlookers as holiday cheer spread throughout the air.

Purple Elves bring holiday cheer

By Zak Zanella, *news editor*

Area children were visited by the “Purple Elf” this holiday season, thanks to the district’s Purple Elf Project. “PEP” allows students and faculty to give back to young people in Shamokin Area schools and its communities by bringing in and donating used or store-bought products.

PEP created 135 boxes of gifts that will be distributed to area children. The organization also received a \$1,200 donation and \$5 Dunkin’ gift cards to be distributed to middle and high school students, according to Mrs. Hughes, one of the coordinators.

Lauren Zimmerman, owner of The Study, held shows by Local Vocals to raise money for the project. “A big portion of the donations came from that,” she explained. A private donation also helped the cause.

According to Hughes and Mrs. Carl, another PEP coordinator, everyone worked together throughout the weeks before Christmas break to gather and organize donations, as well as to create the Purple Elf boxes. Donations included anything from hygiene products, small clothing items, makeup, and stuffed animals, to small toys like Barbie dolls, Matchbox cars, and action figures. All proceeds from the project will directly benefit students of the Shamokin Area School District.

Is dress code necessary?

By Nevaeh Grant, *staff writer*

Dress codes are vacuous. Shamokin Area enacted a dress code years ago for safety reasons and to make school clothing more equal by doing away with designer logos. As students in schools walk around looking the same, they also have other policies that come along with the dress code. For example, rules include no dyeing your hair, no piercings, or wearing clothes we feel comfortable in. Many students are not happy with the dress code and do not feel comfortable wearing a school uniform; for others, it's an excellent idea. The school's dress code has its pros and cons, and continues to be debated daily.

Students love supporting themselves by wearing clothing they feel comfortable in. Fashion might play a big role in some people's lives. According to cwuobserver.com, "Dress codes teach women, from a young age, that their bodies are to be hidden. To show skin is to be 'skimpy'. They teach that young girls' bodies are provocative and sexy. By banning cleavage and thighs, dress codes teach girls that their bodies are objects and they are a distraction. In order for women to feel comfortable, schools have to give them a bit of leeway so they can feel comfortable and not be ashamed of their bodies."

At the same time, the dress code is very important. Dress codes are typically implemented by school districts and employers to promote learning, safety, and image. In the case of misbehavior and criminal activity, hoodies hinder identification of offenders. Dress codes can also help save time with figuring out what to wear for school. It also saves more time not having to wash clothes every week or so.

Should the dress code be limited? Yes, with dress codes limited, it would kind of give students a sense of freedom for fashion and how they would love to dress. Students should be able to wear black or blue jeans with a school shirt or have a design on a hoodie. It can be something visible, but not too big to where it might cause a huge distraction in the classroom.

The latest data from The National Center for Education Statistics finds 20 percent of schools in the United States require school uniforms (that was for the 2017-2018 school year). According to the National Center for Education Statistics, nearly 20 percent of all public schools have adopted uniform mandates. Approximately 22 percent of elementary schools, 19 percent of all middle schools, and 10 percent



Dress code updates:

Since the start of the school year, students have been reminded that hoodies are "never permitted" in school. Students are not to wear or have hoodies in their possession during the school day. Students caught in violation of this district policy will receive two days of out-of-school suspension.

The dress code committee, composed of parents, administrators, and faculty members met in early December to discuss the current dress code and several suggestions that will be presented to the school board. The committee will meet routinely to share ideas and discuss matters related to the dress code.



Members of *The Signal* staff wear dress code-appropriate clothing. From left are Nevaeh Grant, sophomore; and seniors Carter Smink and Marcus Moyer.

Act 80 Fridays Return to Shamokin Area

By Carter Smink, *sports co-editor*

To the delight of many students, Act 80 Fridays have returned to Shamokin Area. The first Act 80 Friday of the year took place on December 3, and will continue to occur for the foreseeable future. However, Act 80 Fridays will take place only on the first Friday of every month.

This brings a slight alteration to the previous school year's Act 80 Friday policy, which gave students a half-day most Fridays. However, last year's Act 80 Fridays were cut short, ending in late spring. This year's updated policy should see the first Friday of every month stay an Act 80 day until the school year ends.

A security guard's morning routine

By Cody Dombrowski, *staff writer/photographer*

Schools are meant to provide students with a safe and secure environment. Fortunately for those who attend or work at Shamokin Area, Mr. Yost is on the job each day to maintain this status quo.

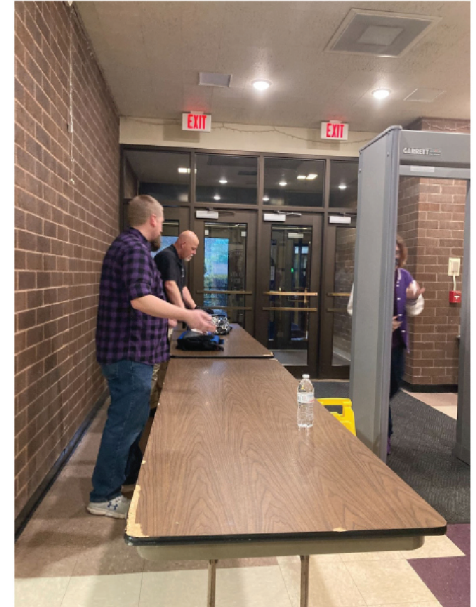
Yost, who has served as the middle/high school's main security guard for the past eight years, takes his job seriously from the minute he starts his shift early in the morning until he leaves in the afternoon.

"All I have to do each morning is come in, set up the metal detector, and also get the cameras up and check to see if they are running properly," Yost says of his morning routine that starts at the main entrance where male students are checked.

As students arrive at school he checks their bags upon entering the building, and watches as they walk through the metal detector to see if they are 'clear' or if they possess any illegal or weapon-type items.

When it comes to searching bags, Mr. Yost knows where exactly to look and does so efficiently. "When searching a student's bag you kind of have to rush to keep the kids flowing, but you also must take your time and do the task at hand," he explains. Along with searching bags, Yost is also in charge of watching the cameras during the school day. During this process, he also checks people, such as parents and other students, who come in through the main entrance.

Mr. Yost, along with the other security guards, are here to keep things in line and make sure everyone is safe and on track for a safe school year.



Mr. Haupt (front) and Mr. Yost (back) search a student's bag as part of the morning school arrival routine. (Photo by Cody Dombrowski, *staff writer/photographer*)

THE SIGNAL

The Signal is an entirely student-run publication dedicated to informing the school and surrounding community in a truthful and ethical manner.

Managing Editor

Dallas Scicchitano

News Editor

Zakary Zanella

Features Editor

Hannah Hess

Sports Editors

Carter Smink

Marcus Moyer

Layout and Design

Dallas Scicchitano, editor

Ben Cohoon, Terry Post

Photographers

Emily Honicker, Franklin

Carranza, Cody Dombrowski

Staff Writers

Erika Bellinger, Nevaeh

Grant, Jakob Kenenitz,

Vincent Sawyer, Emily

Thomas, Emily Honicker,

Franklin Carranza, Cody

Dombrowski

Mrs. Patricia Rhoads, adviser

Mr. Anthony Leshner, *InDesign* genius

Shamokin Area School Board honors three members

By Vincent Sawyer, *staff writer*

The Shamokin Area Board of Education reorganized earlier this month and elected Melissa Hovenstine as its president. Other officers include Jeff Kashner, vice president; and Edward Griffiths, treasurer. The meeting was held at the Northumberland County Career and Technology Center.

Director Erik Anderson will represent the district on the Northumberland County Career and Technology Center Operating Agency.

Superintendent Chris Venna presented out-going board member Laura A. Scandal with a framed resolution and lifetime pass for district events. Current board members honored for their years of service were Edward Griffiths, 20 years, and Brian Persing, eight years.

Shamokin Area School Board regular meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the boardroom.

Taliban Takeover

By Terry Post, *layout and design*

May 1, 2021 marked the day that the Taliban began its assault on the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Twenty years of insurgency resulted in the eventual proclamation of victory for the Taliban, marking the end of the U.S. backed government in Kabul.

On August 15, 2021, the Taliban stormed the presidential palace in Kabul, taking over the capital, and marking the end to the democratic government. Starting on February 29, the US began the withdrawal of troops in Afghanistan. After the Taliban gained wind of this, they launched their final offensive.

After being pushed back, the US began the complete withdrawal of troops, which ended August 30. As of the end of April, an estimated 71,000 Pakistani and Afghan civilians lost their lives due to the war. Does this mark the end of democracy and the beginning of tyrannical rule in the Middle East? Only time will tell.

SA will host District Orchestra; '96 grad will guest conduct

Hannah Hess, *features editor*

Dr. Laura Joella, a 1996 Shamokin Area graduate, will serve as guest conductor of the PMEA District 8 Orchestra on Jan. 14.

Approximately 85 students from nine different school districts will visit Shamokin Area Middle/High School for the day, practice, and perform in an evening concert. This is the first time in six years that the district had this honor.

Students from Northumberland, Snyder, Union, Lycoming, Bradford, Sullivan, Tioga, Columbia, and Montour counties prepared throughout the fall and then submitted their virtual auditions on Dec. 3. These submissions will be judged by high school ensemble directors in our PMEA district and selected students will be notified.

Usually, the festival lasts three days, but due to COVID-19, this year's festival will be a one-day event. Approximately 85 students will attend and will practice during the school day. Mr. Hollenberg volunteered to host this year, but when he left Shamokin, Mr. Styer agreed to take over hosting responsibilities.

Dr. Joella, director of orchestral studies at Florida Atlantic University, is the daughter of former Shamokin Area Band director Lawrence Cooper, who taught at Shamokin from 1967 until his retirement in 2001. Dr. Joella also is a sister-in-law to Mrs. Janine Cooper, a current Shamokin Area special education teacher. Dr. Joella is a graduate of Lebanon Valley College and the University of Michigan.

The public is invited to attend the PMEA District 8 Orchestra concert on Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Junior high girls basketball teams have successful season

By Carter Smink, *sports co-editor*

The junior high girls basketball team capped off an excellent season Dec. 2, which saw both the 7th and 8th grade squads earn victories over Southern Columbia. The 7th grade squad finished with a 10-2 overall record, while the 8th graders ended with a 11-2 overall record. Congratulations to both teams on an excellent season!



Purple Perk updates

By Emily Thomas, *staff writer*

The Purple Perk is a grab-and-go until further notice. The student-run coffee and snack stop is also selling hot chocolate for the holidays. While they always serve hot chocolate, they will make it festive for the Christmas holiday by adding peppermint marshmallows. Teachers and students can enjoy this treat.

FIOS sold Candy Cane Grams

By Emily Thomas, *staff writer*

The Future Innovators of Shamokin (FIOS) Club sold Candy Cane Grams Dec. 6-17 as a way to bring holiday cheer and as a fundraiser to benefit community projects. Candy Cane Grams, purchased in Mrs. Suchanick's classroom, were delivered to recipients during the week of Dec. 20. Suchanick is the club's adviser. FIOS was formerly the Key Club.



Students in Mr. Jon Grybos' Civics and PA History classes participated in a campus clean up as part of civic duties and responsibilities as a way of making the community better. (Photo submitted by Mr. Grybos)

Holiday Spirit Week 2021

Monday, December 20

Santa hats and holiday socks

Tuesday, December 21

Holiday colors

Wednesday, December 22

Ugly sweaters

Thursday, December 23

Comfy clothes

Hoodies or ripped jeans are NOT PERMITTED any day.

Why do kids sleep in class?

By Nevaeh Grant, *staff writer*

Many kids sleep in class because their sleep schedule is not good. They may have jobs, family problems, or some are just night owls. Maybe it's the late night studying, sitting in a warm class after a big lunch, or long evening classes. Perhaps they're bored by the teacher or class.

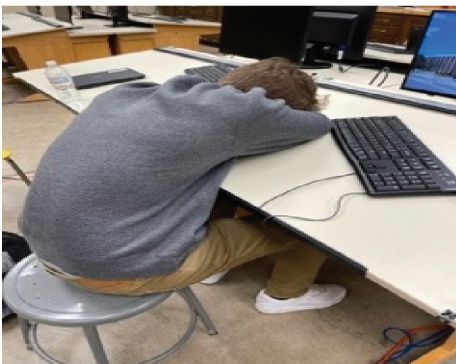
As someone who stays up cleaning her room or trying to get work, projects, or essays done and finally getting finished around 4 a.m. and then having to get up about 5:30 a.m. just to get ready for school, I understand why people would be tired. Every day, there are numerous teenagers battling to stay awake in school.

Usually kids sleep in class due to the lack of connectivity. According to statistics, 20-30 percent of high school students and 6 percent of middle school students fall asleep in school each day. According to www.startschoollater.net, "Sleep-deprived teens participate in more violent and property crime than other teens." Research has found that 73 percent of high school students regularly do not get a healthy amount of sleep. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine recommends that pre-teens need 9-12 hours of sleep and teens should be getting 8-10 hours of sleep per night.

This type of behavior can put the student, teacher, and their education at risk. It can affect their learning environment and can also lead to the loss of self-confidence on the part of students who feel left behind. Sometimes, when students realize they are failing, they will wake up and try to do better. Sadly, there are others who do not care and won't even try. Even if they know they're getting lower grades, students start to lack motivation for doing anything.

Lack of sleep can be caused by many factors, such as family problems, late-night studying, gaming, insomnia, or doing homework at the last minute. Procrastination and the perception that they perform better under pressure because "it works better for them" are other reasons students stay up late. College students in the U.S. who felt tired or sleepy during the day, as of fall 2020, confirmed to be sleeping more at school than home. According to the data, 26.6 percent of the respondents felt tired or sleepy for 7 days (www.startschoollater.net). These facts and statistics show that lack of sleep is a problem that needs to be addressed.

Some methods students can use to prevent sleeping in classes is to bring a water bottle, sit in the front of the class, be active and ask questions, chew gum/bring a snack, go to bed early, and take notes or draw. Caffeinated drinks from Dunkin' or Starbucks help, too. Schools can give students about a 15 to 20 minute break for a nap to get a student in the right mindset. Start class at a later time maybe. Have parents make sure their teen or child gets the proper amount of sleep that they need. This could lead kids to have better grades and do better in school.



Dallas' Dilemma

By Dallas Scicchitano, *managing editor*

On the morning of September 23 this year, there was heavy rain with traffic backed up at the front of the school. This is typical for most of the mornings where there is inclement weather. I immediately got into my parking space around 7:45 and hustled to the building only to be marked late with a plethora of students beside the people that rode the bus. Students should NOT be marked tardy because of inclement weather and the issues it causes with busing and other school traffic. It's unfair!

The school should be a little more relaxed with attendance and not issue tardies on mornings when inclement weather causes traffic jams in front of the school between buses and parents trying to drop off students and people 'jams' queuing to get in the front doors. One option could be to hold attendance until 8 o'clock and give the students who come in after 7:45 a.m. yellow passes that are used for delays at the metal detector.

I also think that it is unfair that a student who is five minutes late gets marked the same as a student who shows up two hours late. Some of my friends in other school districts say that their school marks people late based on the minutes they are late. I feel like that would be more fair to students.

To help alleviate tardies, alternate traffic patterns should be considered. As it is now, buses and cars vie to get to their respective right or left drop-off lanes in front of the high school. Perhaps students could be dropped off in a different area (student parking lot or parking area on State Street). Of course, there are many factors to consider when making a change, but students, school officials, parents, police, and township officials should be consulted in the decision making.



Saxophone man Ravi pauses for a moment from entertaining during the Downtown Christmas celebration Dec. 4. Ravi also performs shows at the Sweet Tooth Cafe. (Photo by Emily Honicker, *staff writer/photographer*)



The Ghostbusters Dance Team performs during the Downtown Christmas Parade. (Photo by Emily Honicker, *staff writer/photographer*)

Scenes from Shamokin's Downtown Christmas and Christmas Parade

Shamokin Area Marching Band leads Christmas parade

By Emily Honicker, *staff writer/photographer*

Shamokin Area's own marching band led the annual community Christmas parade, held Dec. 4, from Market Street down through Independence Street.

The Shamokin Area Marching Band performed some holiday classics. Other parade participants included Heath's Gym Dance Crew as the Ghostbusters. There were many floats and a horse-drawn carriage that transported the beautiful 'Elsa' and 'Anna' from Disney's Frozen. The special guest of the parade was Santa Claus, who arrived in his sleigh. There were plenty of vendors and food stands available for all. The event brought everyone together for the holiday season.



The Shamokin Area Marching Band delights crowds with some holiday favorites during the Downtown Christmas Parade, which offered plenty of fun, food, and laughs. (Photo by Emily Honicker, *staff writer/photographer*)

Jolly movies to watch with family on Christmas

By Nevaeh Grant, *staff writer*

“No matter how different a Who may appear, he will always be welcome with holiday cheer.”- Cindy Lou Who, *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*. Christmas is a time for all to get together by the fireplace, sing Christmas carols together, and decorate the Christmas tree with different decorations. There are so many activities to do on Christmas Eve, such as drinking eggnog, eating pies, opening presents, kissing under the mistletoe, and making snowmen. But what would Christmas be without some great movies? Here are the top five movies recommended by me that you should watch with your family for Christmas.

Number 5, “How The Grinch Stole Christmas” from 1966 - The Grinch and narrator was voiced by Boris Karloff, the original Frankenstein. Oh, the smiles and giggles I have when I watch this movie are remarkable. Jim Carrey has nothing on the old version. “The Grinch hated Christmas — the whole Christmas season. Now, please don’t ask why; no one quite knows the reason. It could be, perhaps, that his shoes were too tight. Or it could be that his head wasn’t screwed on just right. But I think that the most likely reason of all may have been that his heart was two sizes too small.”

Number 4, “Elf” from 2003 - The best Christmas comedy of the century, though only 18 years old. Buddy, who is played by Will Ferrell, is a grown man raised as an elf who goes to find his father in New York. What makes the movie better is how Buddy tries to form a relationship with his father and it turns out to have chaotic results. This used to be my favorite movie ever. It’s hilarious and gives people a good laugh. My opinion: Anything with Will Ferrell is funny. I rest my case.

Number 3, “A Charlie Brown Christmas” from 1965 - Some holiday movies just make you feel good when they come on. They wrap you in a comforter of warm, cozy nostalgia. To me, it’s like the first time you try hot chocolate with marshmallows and eat cookies by the fire while watching snow fall. Watching them dance around and have fun, playing the piano while dancing is so cute and funny.

Number 2, “A Christmas Story” from 1983 - Don’t get mad at me for having this as number two. Trust me; I love it too, especially when four-eyed Ralphie’s pal gets triple-dog-dared into touching his tongue to a frozen metal flagpole. This beloved holiday movie follows the wintry exploits of youngster Ralphie Parker, who spends most of his time dodging a bully and dreaming of his ideal Christmas gift, a “Red Ryder air rifle.” I promise number one is so worth it.

Number 1, “It’s A Wonderful Life” from 1946 - Hollywood film legend James Stewart plays George Bailey in this funny, heartwarming, and profound film, which serves as an annual reminder that the holidays are about more than presents. The plot features Bailey, who has so many problems, and is thinking about ending it all on Christmas! As the angels discuss George, we get to see flashbacks of his life. As George is about to jump from a bridge, he ends up being rescued by his guardian angel, Clarence, who then shows George what his town would have looked like if it hadn’t been for all his good deeds over the years. The classics are always the best. Not judging movies from now but I think the classics deserve more than the remasters. Go classics!



Snowball dance slated for January 15

By Vincent Sawyer and Nevaeh Grant, *staff writers*

Shamokin Area’s Lady Basketball Team is sponsoring a Snowball Dance in the high school cafeteria. This event will take place on January 15, 2022, from 7 to 10 p.m.

Tickets cost \$15 and include hot chocolate, popcorn, and other refreshments for sale!

The girls basketball team will be coordinating the dance. Brooke Bradley will provide the music. Informational flyers about attire will be posted in the school at a later date.



Shamokin Area debate club might be possible

By Nevaeh Grant, *staff writer*

Words are powerful. Can you handle the power? If so, join the debate club and put your words to good use.

Several students at Shamokin Area are working to create a debate club for grades 7-12th. The adviser will be school security guard Mr. James Grant. The president and other officers will be determined when the club begins.

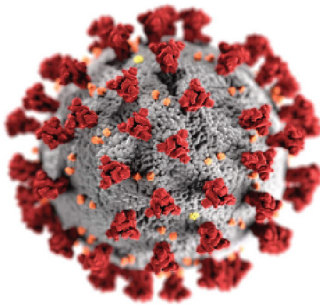
When asked about developing a debate club, Mr. Hockenbroch replied, “It’s possible for a debate club and I would love to have one. If students agree to it, then I don’t see why not. The only reason a debate club didn’t happen was because of COVID-19. There’s steps you would need to do but I think you guys got this.” That was all he could say at the time. There’s a possibility that the debate club will be started.

All the 'Shazam' you missed in 2021; it's enough to make you sick!

By Erika Bellinger, *staff writer*

Highlights of the year

- COVID-19 pandemic
- Delta variant
- Omicron variant
- COVID-19 vaccines
- COVID-19 boosters
- Capitol riot
- Kim Kardashian and Kanye/Ye West divorce
- Astroworld, Travis Scott concert tragedy
- Gun drawn at Weis Markets, Shamokin
- Mask mandates
- Joe Biden is sworn in as 46th president of the United States
- Kamala Harris is the first female, black, and South Asian vice president.
- Jeff Bezos steps down as Amazon CEO; he later flies into space.
- R.I.P. to DMX, rapper; Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth; Young Dolph, Biz Markie, Yung Kece, Gonzoe, Black Rob, Prince Markie Dee, and Baby Ceo, all rappers; and Swavy, Internet influencer.
- Oxford Charter Township School shooting
- Donald Trump banned on Twitter and Facebook permanently.



Erika's To-Do for 2022

By Erika Bellinger, *staff writer*

New year's resolutions

- Look at the year half full
- Work out more
- Pass Keystone testing
- Get compliments everyday
- Give compliments everyday
- Buy a car
- Travel the world
- Save up a certain amount of money
- Run a marathon
- Read more books
- See Billie Eilish in person
- Go to all my favorite artists' concerts
- Be productive
- Don't let anyone get you down
- Meditate

HOLIDAY TREATS!

GINGERBREAD COOKIES

10 tbsp unsalted butter; room temperature
 ¾ cup packed light or dark brown sugar
 ⅓ cup unsulphured molasses
 1 large egg
 1 tsp vanilla extract
 ½ tsp salt
 1 tbsp ground cinnamon
 1 tbsp ground ginger
 ½ tsp ground allspice
 ½ ground clover

Preheat oven to 350 F.

Combine the butter, brown sugar, and molasses in a large bowl until combined and creamy looking.

In a separate bowl, whisk the flour, baking soda, salt, ginger, cinnamon, allspice, and cloves together until combined. Chill for at least 3 hours.

Take out the discs, and roll until about ¼ inches thick. Cut into wanted shapes, then bake for 9-10 minutes. Repeat with remaining discs.

Allow cookies to cool for at least 5 minutes, then enjoy.

RICOTTA COOKIES

15 oz Galbani™ Ricotta cheese
 2 cups granulated sugar
 2 tsp vanilla extract
 2 eggs
 Pinch of salt
 4 cups all-purpose flour
 1 heaping tsp baking soda
 2 tbsp lemon peel, finely grated (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 F.

Combine ricotta, butter, sugar, vanilla extract, eggs, and salt in a large bowl with a mixer on low speed.

Slowly add the flour and baking soda to the mixture. Once dry ingredients are incorporated, add the lemon peel.

Spoon teaspoon-sized dough balls onto greased cookie sheets.

Bake for 10 minutes, rotating the trays halfway through. Remove from the oven and cool on a cookie rack.

Makes 4 dozen cookies.

Lunch times are not moments of “hakuna matata”

By Jakob Kenenitz, *staff writer*

Going to lunch every day is just like a scene in “The Lion King” when the hyenas badger the animals to stampede while Simba makes a mad dash to stay ahead of the pack.

As the hectic lunch-goers funnel into lines in the cafeteria, students get jostled and shoved as the long wait inches along slowly. Often, until you reach the serving area, the main entree is gone.

This year’s lunch times are not running as smoothly as they did in previous years. Blame it on COVID-19. Different grade levels lumped together, five-minute bell confusion, long lines, and food limitations are among the effects of the pandemic on school life.

Coupled with the pandemic problems were staff injuries and a lack of a sub-line. Despite all of the challenges, the lunch staff is doing an excellent job. Students are asked to be patient, as everyone is doing the best they can.

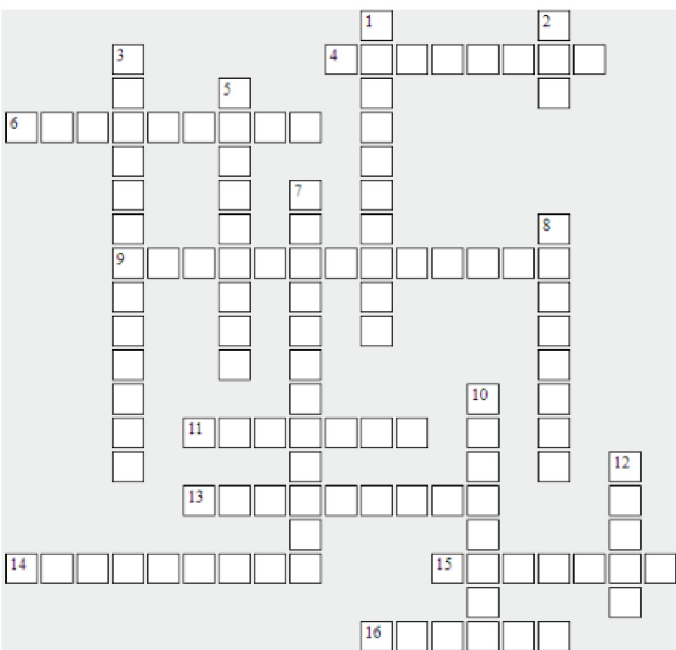
HOLIDAY CROSSWORD!

Across

4. Jewish Festival of lights
6. Get caught underneath, kiss your lover
9. Santa puts your gifts under this
11. ...with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight?
13. Hang these on your Christmas Tree
14. Striped Candy
15. made of snow and ice, topped with a hat
16. Shiny Christmas Tree decoration that no one uses anymore

Down

1. He is in fact coming to town
2. One of the main dishes of Christmas Eve
3. Gingerbread men, snowmen, candy canes, and Santa all decorated in icing
5. You hang these on the mantle of your fireplace
7. Hot drink started with a pod
8. Pull Santa's sleigh
10. Wrapped in paper, Santa puts these under the tree
12. Santa's little helpers



In The Hall: What do you want for Christmas?



Freshman, Brice Scicchitano:
"Money"



Sophomore, Jacob Erdman:
"New computer mouse"



Junior, Korbin Kramer:
"Xbox Series X"



Senior, Garrett Kitchen:
"An autograph from
Henry Hynoski"



Teacher, Mr. Grybos:
"Nothing, Christmas is a corporate
holiday"



Teacher, Mrs. Shaffer:
"More travel experiences"



Graphic technology class creates winter coloring books

By Emily Honicker, *staff writer/photographer*

Mr. Leshner's graphic technology class distributed winter coloring books to students in Pre-K, Kindergarten, and first grade at the elementary school on Dec. 20 as a holiday gesture.

Leshner explained that his students found copyright-free images online and then photoshopped them in order to "make it fit" class requirements for a traditional styled coloring book.

"The students wanted to do a Christmas-related project and they came up with the idea of the coloring book because Mrs. Feese, who previously taught the course, did a similar project," Leshner explained. "The students decided it would be nice to make it for someone and hand it out before Christmas."



Mr. Anthony Leshner prepares coloring books for distribution to students in Shamokin Area Elementary School. Students in his graphic technology class created the booklets.

Shamokin basketball season tips off

By Marcus Moyer, *sports co-editor*

Excitement levels were high as the basketball season began for both the boys' and girls' teams. Chris Zimmerman is returning as the head coach for the boys and has high hopes for the season ahead. Starters returning from last season include senior Colin Seedor, senior Joey Tarr, senior Cayan Lee, and junior Cameron Annis. The boys took on Shenandoah Valley at home to start the season on December 11. They fell 50-41 to begin the season 0-1.

For the girls, Superintendent Chris Venna debuted as the new head coach and looked to start off the season with a win. The young team will be led by junior Madison Lippay, sophomore Carly Nye, sophomore Allyson Waugh, and freshman Delilah Nazih. The girls kicked off their season at home with a win against Nativity BVM by a final score of 50-39 on December 10 and followed up with a win over Shenandoah Valley by a final score of 42-25 on December 11 to start the season 2-0. Everybody make sure to come out to the games and get the Purple Palace rocking!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE
SIGNAL STAFF!



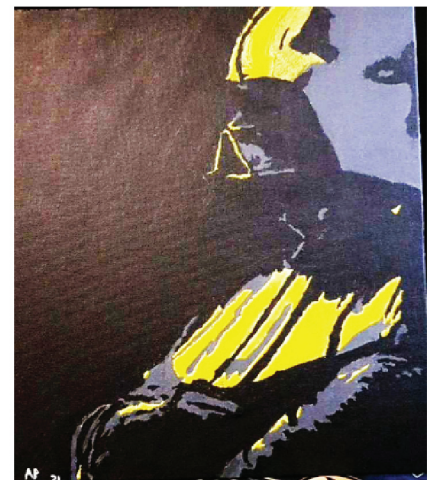
Student Artwork



- Sophomore, Samara Sinopoli

Weezer is the best, the best there
ever was
Blue, Green, and Pinkerton, my
three most beloved
Rivers Cuomo's voice, the
language of love
Weezer music sounds like angels
from above

-Anonymous Trumpet Player



- Junior, Agam Patel

