

COM-MINI-CATIONS

HOLIDAY ISSUE '98-'99



Mini-School Overview

Mini-School is an alternative program located within Minnetonka High School where tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders are working together with a group of teachers to change their attitudes and perspectives. The students come to Mini-School with a history of not succeeding very well in traditional school. Many of them are dangerously close to dropping out of school. Some have dropped out and are returning to give school one more try. They are tired of failing, tired of breaking rules, tired of being identified as negative people in the mainstream school culture.

At Mini-School they begin to put their lives together—in school and out of school. They become part of a school family where they can be themselves without fear of recrimination. In Mini-School they set goals, share responsibilities, solve problems, learn academic and basic living skills, and have fun.

This supportive family atmosphere encourages students to develop responsibility, accountability, and positive self-esteem. Students are encouraged to view themselves as learners in the holistic sense of the term—intellectual, emotional, physical, and spiritual.

Mini-School began in the 1970-71 school year and is still meeting the needs of many students. Mini-School now serves not only the Minnetonka School district but neighboring districts as well, due to its affiliation with the larger Area Learning Center.

If you know of a student in need of Mini-School, please contact us at 470-3574 or 470-3586.



**"We the unwilling
Led by the unqualified
Have been doing the unbelievable
So long with so little
We now attempt
The impossible
With nothing."**

Meandering Through Mini-School

By: Doug Berg

As the Holiday season approaches, the excitement around Mini-School reaches a fever pitch. Dustin Olson, Derek Knowles and Andy Black increase their physical abuse of one another, Matt Thompson increases his number of calls to California to see what's in store for him on that front, Aaron Hoerst becomes pesky beyond belief, Craig Schrupp literally bounces off the walls, Lakaysa Bollig's smile gets bigger, Young Kim has had several #7 days in a row, Sam Maeder escalates his volume of words per minute, Mike Bromme gets squirrelier than ever, and everyone seems happy, looking forward to vacation, presents, fun and good cheer.

The warm December weather has everyone confused. Mini-School's cross country skis, snowshoes and sleds rest in the trip room, collecting dust until the temperature drops and the ground is white. Nevertheless Jeremy Latcham and Mike Bromme have officially declared the onset of winter by sporting new stocking caps and Clare Meyer asked "Doug, can we have a sledding day?" The other day. "Yes, Clare, we'll hose down the sliding hill and go mudding.

The Grantsburg Hike went out November 18th -19th, the two worst weather days this fall. The 18th brought cold, drenching rain and the 19th brought light snow, colder temps and brisk, biting wind. Everyone did real well though and managed to have fun and learn some things despite the conditions. Randy and I were particularly impressed with first-time Mini-School trippers Jessica Johnson, Derek Knowles, Dusty Mahn, Nick Merchant, Dustin Olson, John

Quaas, and mainstream teacher Scott Johnson. The only kids among the dozen on the hike with any extensive experience on a physically challenging trip were Kristina Petron and Clare Meyer.

Despite the relative inexperience of the group, they completed the hike as fast and as well as any group Randy and I have led in 16 years of doing the hike.

Recycling is back. Jon Schmidt is doing a good job of leading the Mini-School kids in this valuable service Mini-School performs for MHS and the environment.

As I write this, Pauline is nearing the time of the birth of her second child. Maybe she'll have a Christmas or New Year's baby! We've been working on finding a replacement for her and are getting close.

On December 17th we plan to take a Mini-School outing to Dudley Rigg's Brave new workshop. The staff and kids really enjoy this annual night out together. Jamie Rasmussen has promised to be my date for the evening.

On Friday December 18th, the last day of school before winter break, Mini-School's calendar drive fund- raiser will officially draw to a close. \$100 will be given back to the student's in a drawing with prizes of \$10, \$10, \$10, \$20, and \$50. Every time a Mini-School student sells a calendar his/her name goes into the hat. Once again due to the outstanding efforts the kids have made for their program, Mini-School will realize well over \$2000 from this drive.

I'd like to wish the best of the season to all Mini-School's students, staff, parents, alumni and supporters. We love y'all.

Christmas in the Trenches

By John McCutcheon

Submitted by Doug Berg

Editors note: The following are the verses from a song by John McCutcheon. I felt they could stand alone as a story/poem. The story is true. The commanding officer of the British forces was court-martialed for "consorting with the enemy" and sentenced to death. Only a pardon by King George V spared him.

A wonderful statement of the meaning of Christmas, I feel.

My name is Francis Tolliver, I come
from Liverpool.
Two years ago the war was waiting for
me after school,
To Belgium and to Flanders, to
Germany, to here,
I fought for King and country I love dear.

'Twas Christmas in the trenches, where
the frost, so bitter, hung.
The frozen fields of France were still, no
Christmas song was sung.
Our families back in England were
toasting us that day.
Those brave and glorious lads so far
away.

I was lying with my messmates on the
cold and rocky ground,
When across the lines of battle came a
most peculiar sound.
Says I, "Now listen up, me boys!" each
soldier strained to hear,
As one young German voice sang out so
clear.

"He's singing bloody well, you know!"
my partner says to me.
Soon, one by one, each German voice
joined in, in harmony.
The cannons rested silent, the gas
clouds rolled no more,
As Christmas gave us respite from the
war.

As soon as they were finished and a
reverent pause was spent,
"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" struck
up some lads from Kent.
The next they sang as "Stille Nacht",

"'Tis 'Silent Night'" says I,
And in two tongues one song filled up
that sky.
"There's someone coming toward us!"
The front line sentry cried.
All sights were fixed on one lone figure
trudging from their side.
His truce flag, like a Christmas star,
shone on that plain so bright.
As he, bravely, strode unarmed into the
night.

Soon one by one on either side walked
into No Man's Land.
With neither gun nor bayonet we met
there hand to hand.
We shared some secret brandy and
wished each other well,
And in a flare-lit soccer game we
gave 'em hell.
We traded chocolates, cigarettes, and
photographs from home,
These sons and fathers far away from
families of their own.
Young Sanders played his squeeze box
and they had a violin,
This curious and unlikely band of men.

Soon daylight stole upon us and France
was France once more.
With sad farewells we each prepared to
settle back to war.
But the question haunted every heart
that lived that wondrous night,
"Whose family have I fixed within my
sights?"

'Twas Christmas in the trenches where
the frost, so bitter, hung.
The frozen fields of France were warmed
as songs of peace were sung.
For the walls they'd kept between us to
exact the work of war,
Had been crumbled and were gone
forevermore.

My name is Francis Tolliver, in
Liverpool I dwell.
Each Christmas come since World War I,
I've learned it's lessons well--
That the ones who call the shots won't
be among the dead and lame,
And on each end of the rifle we're
the same.

Holiday Wish List
By: Lacey Landt & Doug Berg

Alan Jampsa- To graduate
David Larson-Hughes- a new car
Drew Emmings- Tools
Brooke Woltalla- Fake I.D
Trish Lauman- A piece of colored happiness
Shaun Johnson- A new drum set
Sam Maeder- stretch pants
Carrie Tiggas- Peace and quiet
Audrey Lopez- The members of Pearl Jam within my reach
Kristina Petron- a mansion
Matt Thompson- Lacey Landt
Charlie Urbia- Paint job for car
Clare Meyer- No more math
Seth Stiebinger- a private jet
Matt Merriam- 30 minute shopping spree at Best Buy
Jessica Turner- trip to Europe
Jeana Doescher- a camera
Ramona Anderson- Kids to love math or like math or put up with math
Leah Shoberg- Dave Matthews on a silver platter
Jamie O'Day- Life time supply of toilet paper
Matt Evans- The Utah trip
Doug Berg- Minnesota Weather guide Calendar
Chris Hinrichs- Hugs
Jamie Rasmussen- Everybody to be happy
Joanne Johnston- World Peace
Mark Warren- A bic lighter
Derek Knowles and Dustin Olson- To beat Doug and Randy in basketball
Jon Schmidt- more carabiners
Aaron Hoerst- a bigger locker
Lakaysa Bollig- A state championship
Craig Schrupp- Sanity
Geoff Boller- A button for his lip
Jim O'Day- My sister's love
Laura Huberty- organizational skills

Nick Kurian- unlimited credit at Abercrombie & Fitch

Marti Norris- A new dress

Trevor scott- Brain cells

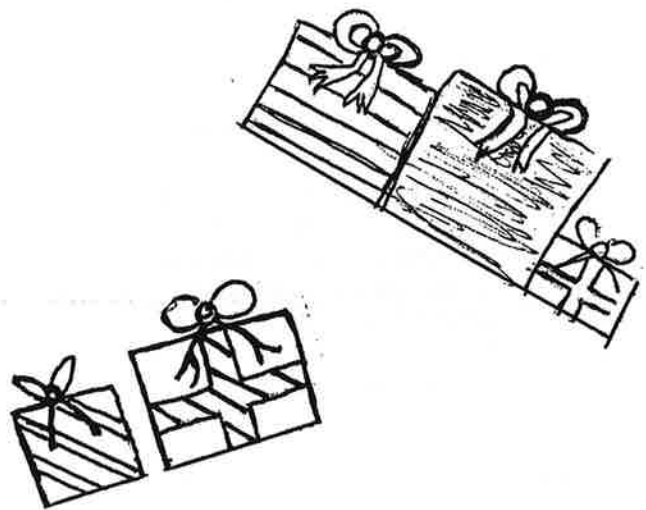
Young Kim- a #10 day

Jessica Johnson- More backpack trips

Pauline Engelby- Diapers

Randy Nelson- A state championship

To all the Mini-School students from the staff- Love, peace, all the credits you need and all the support and strength you need for a great Mini 1999.



My job at Spooky World

By: Craig Schrupp

Spooky World is a horror theme park in Shakopee. The park contains four haunted houses. They are rated by a skull system from one to five. The scariest being a five, and the least, one. One of the many haunted houses is called The Haunted Crypt, which was the only rated five skull in the park. It consists of 6000 square feet of scare, including many new frights, such as the Corpnelator.

The Creepy Catacombs is the second scariest, it was given four skulls, but even then I thought it was under rated. Just imagine a house full of spiders, well, that's basically the second house.

The third haunted house is the Alien Attack. It is a three skull and very fun. It is filled with frights from out of this world, and always fun and an experience to remember- The Black Hole.

The fourth is Buried Alive. It is a two skull. It is an experience in sound. There are also two terror Trails. They are the Walk in the Woods and the Graveyard Crawl. They are both three skulls and very action packed. Another attraction is the Creepy Hallow Hay ride. It is a three skull with a lot of fun. The park is not all aimed for an older crowd. We do have things for the little kids. we have Booville. It is a play area with a play system with swings and slides for the kids under 10. We also have 9 holes of monster Mini Course. they also have the Doom Drop Giant Slide. There is one way up and one way down. That is it.

I started my job at Spooky world on September 20th. I first started by helping build the haunted houses and putting up

tents. The building was a hard job with long hours. Than I started my acting job. I started at 6:00 p.m. till whenever the park closed which some nights was around 1:00 a.m. I also do the maintenance job which I start at noon, right after school till 5:45. What maintenance is, is i pick up garbage and make sure that everything is working for when we open.

It was a great job. I hated to see it end after Halloween.



JAMIE

Costly time of year

By: Jamie Rasmussen

The Holiday season can be looked at as a joyous time of the year or it can be the most cherished season has lost all its meaning. The market makes it hard to live up to the advertisements requirements of a splendid holiday. In other words, if you don't buy what they're selling your days of celebration won't be grand like they have pictured for you.

Every year there is a great new fad toy that every child must have and because they work it up to be all that it's mostly not it becomes very costly. This year it's the Furby doll which has been replaced by last year's Tickle Me Elmo doll. Beanie bags that resemble a stuffed animal sell for hundreds. The black market comes in handy with costly fads.

Shopping for children can be very irritating. Kids are picky as to what they want and won't make exceptions. For example, a sweatshirt is needed and can be found at both The Gap and Wal-Mart. Even though they carry the same thing you'd have to spend more money on the name brand just to say that you got it from The Gap. Children want a whole new wardrobe but these days you can only afford to add to it. One sweater can cost as much as \$50. That's outrageous! By the time a person gets their shopping done it may look as though they only spent half the money they said they were going to spend. Just goes to show you how expensive shopping is.

During the holidays stores can raise their prices to their advantage because they know you'll still buy their products due to the large demand. For many it's hard to enjoy the season because it's so

expensive just to celebrate the holiday. Trees are high bucks, along with decorations, cards, food. It's too bad that people have to be so greedy when what they really need they can have for free, warm loving, hearts, and a joyous spirit.

A stylized, hand-drawn word 'Happy' in a graffiti or bubble font. The letters are thick and outlined, with some internal shading and decorative flourishes. The 'H' is particularly large and blocky, while the 'y' has a long, sweeping tail.

A stylized, hand-drawn phrase 'New Year' in a graffiti or bubble font. The letters are thick and outlined, with some internal shading and decorative flourishes. The 'N' is very large and blocky, while the 'Y' has a long, sweeping tail.

A Mini Trip to The Guthrie Theater By Leah Shoberg

On Wednesday November 24 From 11:45am to about 4:00pm, a select group of mini kids went with Ramona, Pauline, and Joanne to the Guthrie to see "A Christmas Carol." Those select kids were: Myself, Shaun Johnson, Corinna Anderson, Jamie Rasmussen, Audrey Lopez, Marti Norris, Jessie Hoium, Jessica Turner, Kristina Petron, and Sam Maeder.

Beginning the trip about a half an hour after Mini classes were over, we were all eager to leave. None of us are really used to staying at school more than four to five hours a day. A person could go crazy sitting in mini for that long after classes...

Anyhow, we all piled into the mini van and Joanne's van and were off to the theater. The ride was pleasant, and the company was nice, so the ride went by smoothly. Arriving at the Guthrie, we all headed toward the entrance with anticipation. Now, for those of us who had never been to the Guthrie, we were in for a big surprise. Considering all of the talk about how great the Guthrie was, we had assumed that it was a huge spectacle to see.....oh, and it was! Just a little smaller than we had thought it to be. I guess the people who built it meant to give it that small theater feel to it.

Well....finding our seats, after a little trouble, we realized that we were ten minutes early. Looking around, at face value, one would not think this to be one of the best establishments in the country. But we waited, as only mini kids can,

impatiently, for the show to start. And what a show it was! After the lights dimmed, and the play began, the stuffy feeling of the theater melted away into a cozy type feeling, that made everyone quite comfortable I'm sure. The play was wonderful! All of you know the story: "A Christmas Carol" right? Well this performance was as close to the actual story as they come. The actors were great playing all of the characters in the story. I fell in love with each one.

The intermission was a nice break from the small seats. But I only realized that they were small when the intermission came around. The performance was so captivating that I almost forgot where I was.

After returning to our seats, the play resumed. A few of us were a little fidgety at first, but that eventually subsided and we all continued to watch. The special effects were great! The theater really went all out on this one. It seemed as though every one enjoyed it. When the play was over and all of the cast came out on-stage to bow, there was a roaring applause. There was bowing from the actors and clapping and whistling from the audience. The performance was a true success.

Afterward, we all filed out of the theater and headed back to the vans. We all agreed that the play was a great experience, and we hoped to do it again in the future.



Worst Christmas present ever

**By: Jamie O'Day
& Lacey Landt**

Jamie and I wanted to see what the best and the worst presents people have ever gotten and here they are.....

Shaun Johnson- Paddle ball, silly putty

Audrey Lopez- Things that were already mine!

Cheryl Cermak- 2 tropical birds to set free/ boys clothes

Leah Shoberg- box of garage sale left overs

Ramona Anderson- Box of chocolate covered cherries

Doug Berg- A sleeveless hooded sweatshirt

Mike Bromme- My grandma gave me a nightgown

Corrina Anderson- A pocahontas calendar

Tony Wegler- Deodorant

Brin Paulson- Jar of pennies from my grandma

Carrie Tiggas- A big purple sweater with flowers and sequins

Scott Johnson- Got stuck in a blizzard

Best Christmas Present ever

Shaun Johnson- snow board

Chris Hinrichs- He-Man castle

Heather Trowbridge- Rainbow bright

Ramona Anderson- Weather guide calendar from Trisha

Joanne Johnston- Round red wooden pie carrier, double Decker, made by her husband

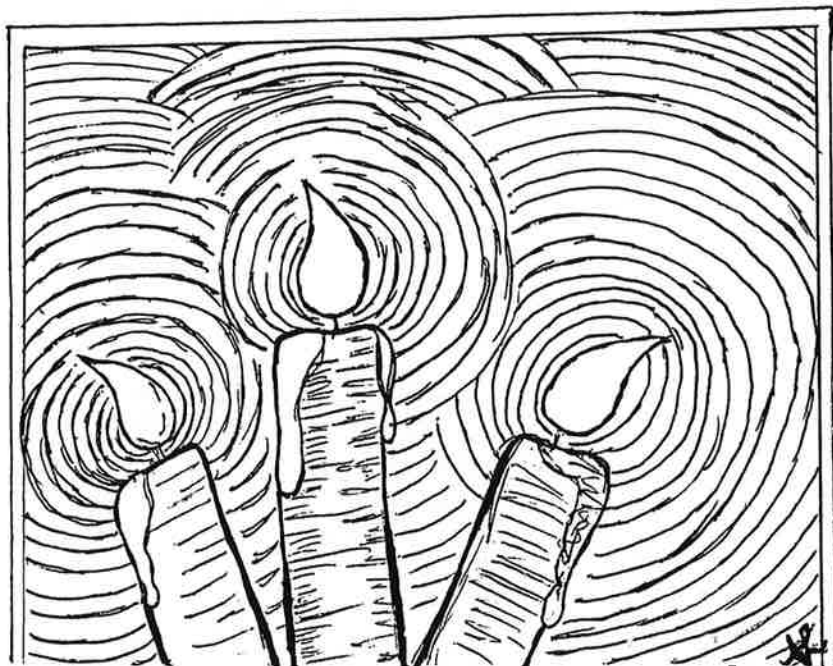
Doug Berg- Cross Country ski waxing bench

Geoff Boller- will be graduation

Tony Wegler- snowmobile

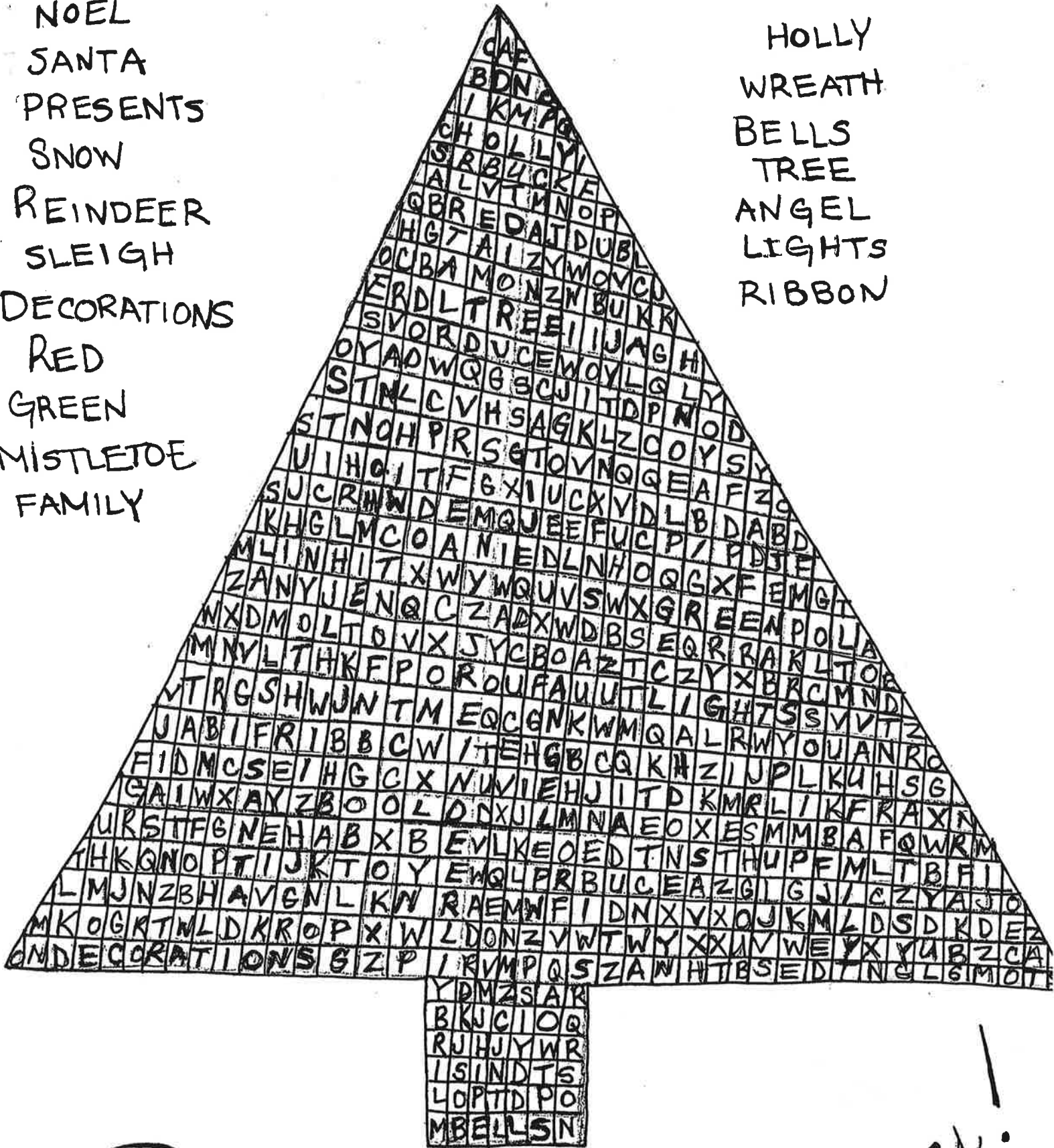
Brin Paulson- ticket to Colorado

Aaron Sapp- A "My Little Pony"



NOEL
 SANTA
 PRESENTS
 SNOW
 REINDEER
 SLEIGH
 DECORATIONS
 RED
 GREEN
 MISTLETOE
 FAMILY

HOLLY
 WREATH
 BELLS
 TREE
 ANGEL
 LIGHTS
 RIBBON



Seaton's Greetings!

The Real Story.....

By: Cheryl Cermak

Santa married the woman at the zoo two weeks later. Together they devised a plan to save the deer. Mr and Mrs Claus abducted them from the zoo. To get away from the law they moved way up north to build a barn, well warehouse, where he would manufacture toys to distribute.

Santa and Mrs. Claus prefer to hire the vertically challenged, to conserve room. These are very loving people as you can see and so they have vowed to give all the good girls and boys gifts once a year. Now, as you might have noticed, your parents are buying your gifts. That's because you're bad!

One night a year Mr. and Mrs. Claus get a chance to get away on the jet engine powered sled. The deer like the ride too so the little people strap them to the edge of the sled and let them dangle there. Since the Earth is round it looks like they're flying. Deceiving isn't it?



Traditions

By: Craig Schrupp

The holidays are a season of visiting, giving, getting and spending a lot of time talking about the same old stuff time after time. It seems to me the only time I hear the same story from 50 different people is at school or at the holidays.

Thanksgiving is the best time to hear repeated stories. It seems to me that the only things that change are the peoples appearance. I also noticed that every year people in my family like my grandparents start to shrink. Some get skinnier, some get fat and some don't change at all. The stories never change even if you heard them the previous 8 years of Thanksgiving. All you have to do is go along and laugh when everybody else laughs.

I have also noticed that football has had a huge part in Thanksgiving. It's always the men huddled a foot away from the television hooting and hollering while the women are talking about Tupperware and Mary Kay.

One of my hopes and dreams is to have a Thanksgiving or a holiday that isn't the same as it was when I was 5 years old. I would like new enlightening stories that I can tell till I am 75 and my kids and grand kids will get sick of my stories too.

Winter Solstice

By: Audrey and Leah

It's the holiday season again, and let's hope that everyone's prepared, because it's coming if you're ready or not. There are so many things to do this time of year, that most people don't stop to remember *what* they're celebrating in the first place and why. Sadly enough, the distant echo of times past can hardly be heard over the ringing of department store registers. Don't get me wrong, I'm not referring to *everyone*!! Only basing my opinion on the fact that sales soar around this time and most everyone goes broke buying gifts. Coincidence? Probably not. But I'm here *not* to criticize, but to remind you of what this time of year is really about.

Originally, before the take over of the Romans, people of the Old Ways would celebrate Solstice. There are two Solstices actually; the Summer and the Winter. Everyone knows about them, I would hope. Summer Solstice being the longest *day* of the year, June 21. And Winter Solstice being the longest *night* of the year, December 21.

Traditionally, the Solstice was referred to as "Yule"--A word that comes from Germanic languages--and was a time for many things, but primarily for retaining hope in the middle of the cold winter months. You see, after the Harvest, which was usually on September 23rd, Autumn Equinox--Equal day and equal night--the people of the Old Ways would prepare for the coming winter months. The Solstice was the day that marked the peak of the cold and the lengthening of the days back toward spring. And when spring did come around, it was a time for fertilizing the land and planting seeds for food to grow, and then be harvested for the next winter to come. The Solstices and Equinoxes are key days in the cycle of the Earth.

But because it's Yule time, we've decided to give you a few fun facts of traditional things that took place and why. So maybe you can feel closer to the predecessors of this Earth by giving some of these traditions a shot. You may be surprised though, most of these Old Way traditions are strikingly similar to the traditions of today.....

Fun Facts:

---A tree of evergreen is brought into the house and decorated to symbolize the continuation of life, and to renew the hope that warm months are soon to come.

---Holly and mistletoe is brought into the home and used to decorate the house for the same reason the evergreen tree was, to renew hope that the Earth will soon wake from its slumber and bloom again.

--- Exchanging gifts is a symbol of remembering the things given to you throughout the year, and of giving to people less fortunate something to hope for in the coming months.

---Hanging mistletoe and being kissed under it is an old Druid custom.

---A time to lean on each other and think about the support, kindness, and friendship of others.

---A time of rejoicing and being merry about the things you have, and sharing those things with friends and family.

Note: Many people still celebrate these days religiously. In several different cultures there were many Gods and Goddesses attached to these sacred days of the cycle of the Earth, and large amounts of people still celebrate them today.



Old Trational Recipes

By: Cheryl and Audrey

"Wheel of the year"

By Teresa Moorey and Jane Brideson

Baked Alaska

(seasonal)

You will need:

- 1 round sponge cake
- 1 block ice-cream, as deeply frozen as possible
- 120 -180g (4-6oz) fresh or canned fruit
- 4-5 egg whites
- 25-60g (1-2oz) sugar per egg white, depending how sweet you like it

Method:

- 1 -place the sponge cake on an ovenproof dish and soak it with a little fruit syrup.
 - 2- Now whisk the egg whites until really stiff and dry and fold in the sugar carefully.
 - 3 -Take the icecream out of the freezer and place it on top of the sponge cake. Top the icecream with the fruit.
 - 4 -Now spread the margarine mix over the top, being very careful to cover all of the ice cream.
 - 5 -place in a very hot, preheated oven- about 445 degerees F., gass mark 8 for just three minutes, until golden brown.
- Serve.

--Submitted by: Cheryl Cermak

-Smores Pizza- by Goeff Boller

- 1 -Get a frozen cheese pizza
- 2 -Cook for about 2 min- or until done
- 3 -Take Golden Grahams, mini-marshmallows & chocolate chips-Add to taste.
- 4 -Cook for 2 more minutes
- 5 -Enjoy!

Wassail (a drink)

"Llewellyns Witches Datebook"

---You will need:

- 3 cinnamon sticks
- 6 cloves
- 2 pieces of crystalized ginger
- 4 cardamon pods
- 2 oranges, sliced
- 2 apples, peeled and sliced
- 1 lemon, sliced
- 1/3 cup raisins
- 1 quart wine or white grape juice
- 1/2 gallon of apple juice

Tie the cinnamon, cloves, ginger, and cardamon into a piece of cheese cloth. Place the spice bag, oranges, apples, lemon, and raisins in a large pan with the wine. Cover and simmer on low heat for one hour. Remove spice bag and fruit. Add cider, stir and heat mixture on medium heat. Serve hot. Makes enough to fill a large punch bowl.

-Submitted by: Audrey Lopez

-Yule Potpourri-

By D.J. Conway

- 4 ounces peppermint leaves
- 1 ounce powdered benzoin gum
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 ounces rose petals
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Stir together in any container, place inside a pouch or potpourri bowl, and let sit out to enjoy the fragrance!

-Submitted by: Audrey Lopez



17 *Ronald Lane Syne*

Grantsburg

**By: Seth Stiebinger and
Clare Meyer**

Trudging up mile high hills with 800 lbs on your back, with freezing rain and snow coming down, eating frozen chocolate and cheese and bagels when you can hardly move your fingertips, blisters on your feet and legs so tired that you can't take another step, but you do take another step, and another, because that's what you're here for, to hike. That's right you paid money to do this and you'll have fun doing it, dammit.

The Grantsburg hike, a physically challenging, and yet oddly refreshing 2 day, 18 mile stroll through the woods, yeah right. You try strolling through the woods with a pack that weighs 40 -70 pounds or more, climbing over fallen trees, and getting soaked with freezing drizzle that won't stop, and that was just the first day.

I should probably start at the beginning, we met at school at 6:00 am { a big enough challenge for some} and set out before sunrise. We made our planned stop for breakfast at the Grant House in Rush City where Alumni Mike Phelps ate Dusty Mahn's breakfast. We proceeded to Governor Knowles state trail. One of our trippers, Derek Knowles, was dubbed "The Governor" for the rest of the trip. The Governor and his pal Dustin Olson led the way for most of the trip.

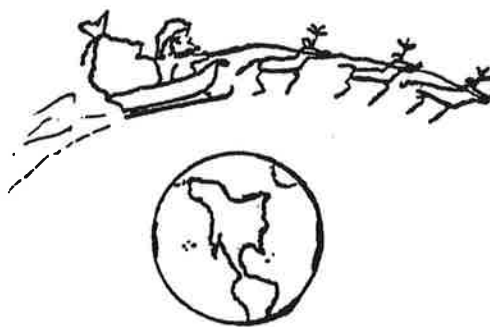
The Women on the trip, Clare Meyer, Kristina Petron, and Jessica Johnson, actually proved tougher than most of the men. John Quaas was bribed into carrying Seth Stiebinger's tent { we won't go into what that cost} and Nick Merchant, Tom Miller and Jon Schmidt were just

your average trouble makers, but unfortunately we all made it out safe and sound { we were hoping at least one person would get hypothermia and we could turn the hike into a rescue mission but...}

So if you're a Mini-Schooler of the future reading this and trying to decide if you should go on the infamous Grantsburg hike, Mike Bromme summed it all up with this "I thought I'd never say this, but I'd rather be in school".

Guess what Scott Johnson never complained once { although he did take it easy with Randy Nelson in the back of the line} and of course Doug Berg was way in the front, even with his twisted ankle. Jon Schmidt had plenty of carabiners along in case we had to climb some cliffs, Tom Miller just wouldn't stop talking, and Nick Merchant actually liked hiking.

Everyone did real well. Doug and Randy were pleased. Another Grantsburg hike {Mini-School's 16th} is history.



Recycling Update:

By: Jamie O'Day

Attention: Mainstream, Mini Schoolers, Staff, Parents and anyone else who wants to know:

WE NOW RECYCLE!!!

At the beginning of the school year we ceased to recycle because of many problems within the school, enough said. Thanks to all the efforts put in by Student Government and the Mini school program we have convinced them to restart the aluminum recycling program.

So Please Recycle!! There are bins located in the lunchroom.

Yule

Submitted by: Audrey Lopez

In the darkness of winter, the spark of new life.

I have news for you:

The stage bells,

winter snows,

Summer has gone,

Wind high and cold.

Sun low, short its course,

sea running high.

Rust brown bracken, its shape lost,

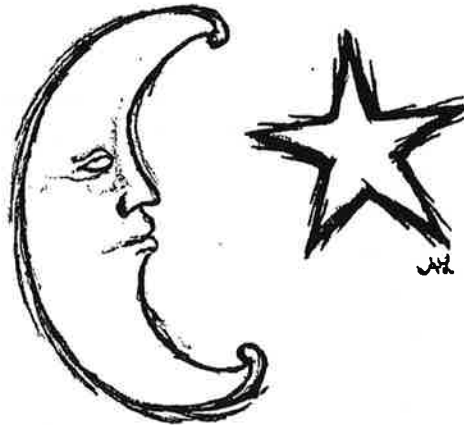
the wild goose raises her accustomed cry.

Cold seizes the birds wing:

Seasons of ice:

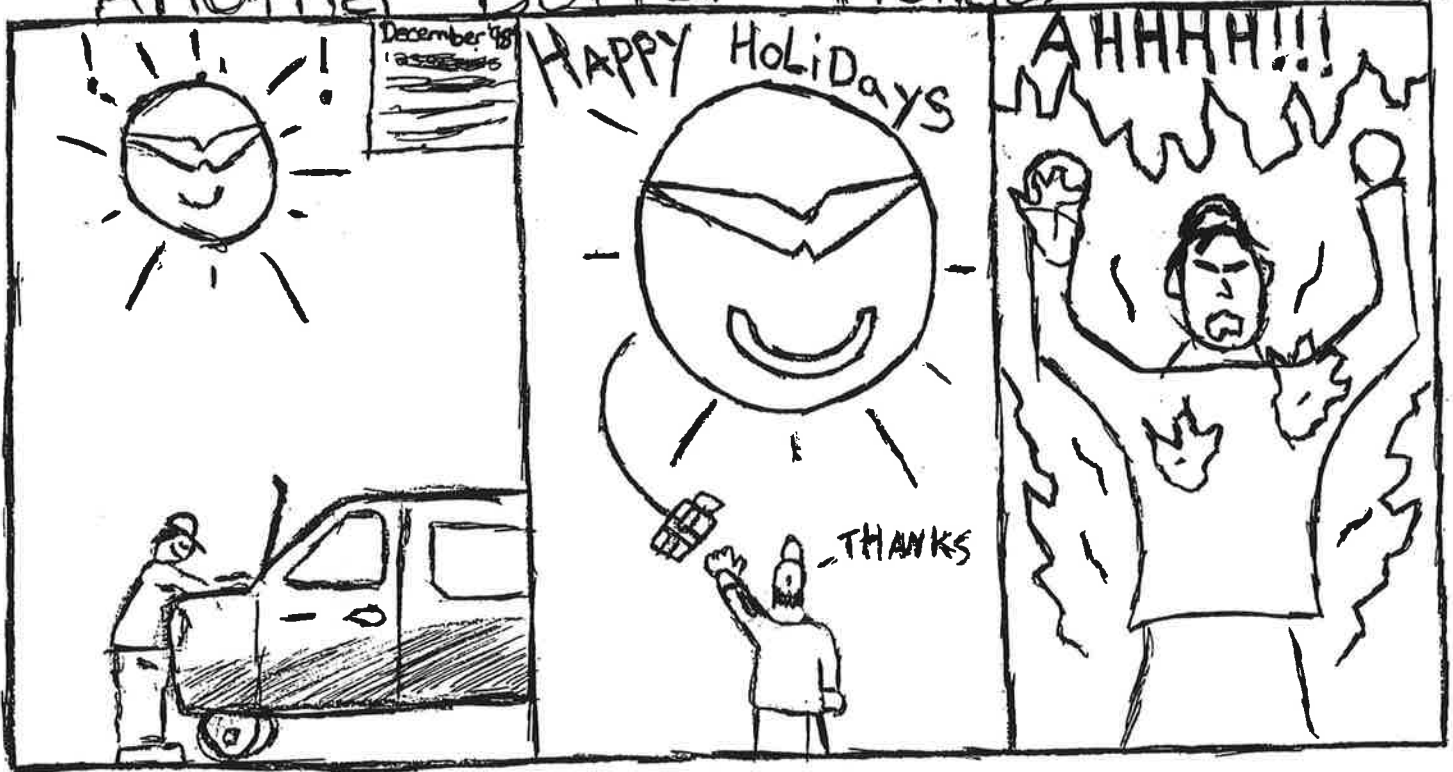
This is my news.

-ninth century Irish poem



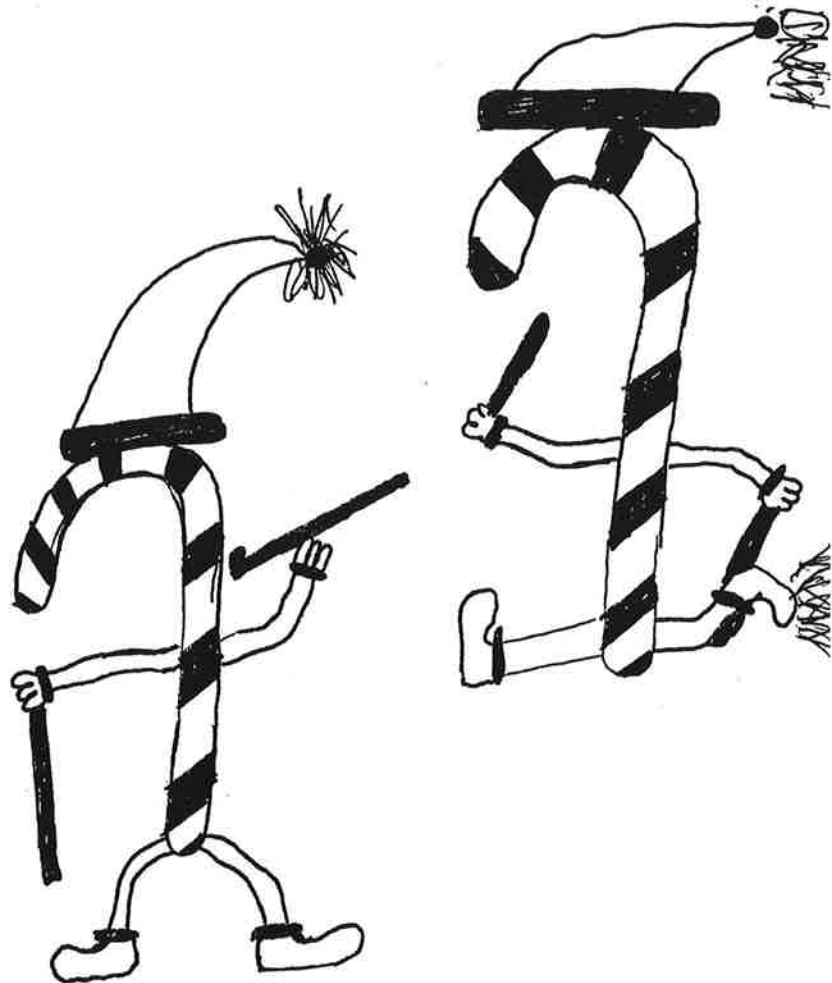
Another Boller Holiday!

By Aaron Sapp
+ Sam Madder



It's in the Air By: Jamie Rasmussen

Holidays bring people together in many ways. It's a time when amends are made and grudges fade. Meetings come with friendly greetings. Charity equals purity. Family compassion makes one thrive happily. Love is like a dove, it flies high.



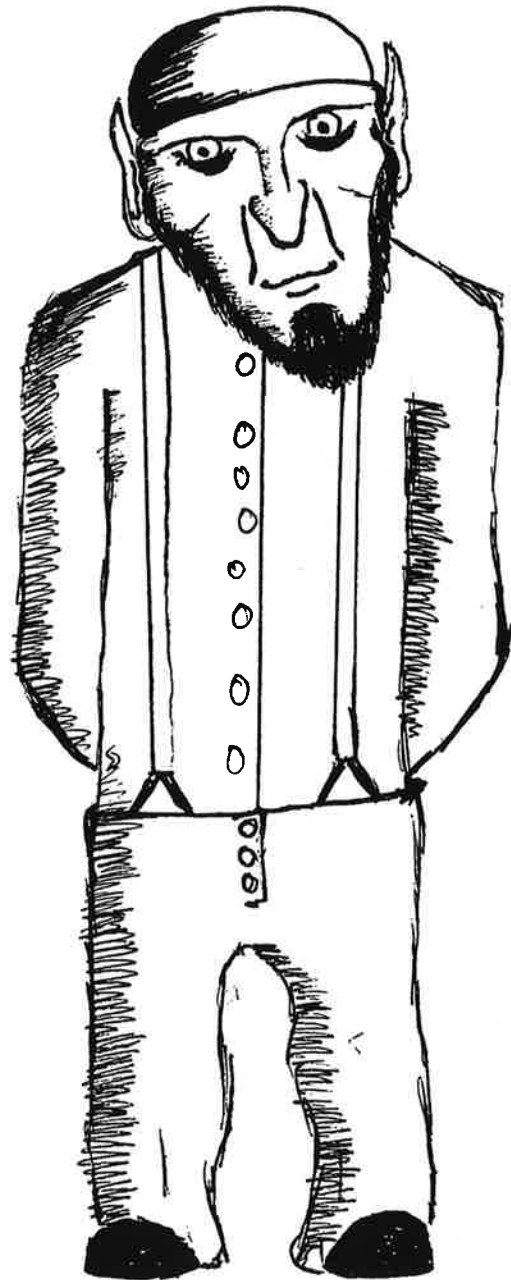
Calendar Drive

By: Craig Schrupp

The Mini-School calendar drive is well under way and is doing very well. The students have been working hard for over a month. We have sold a total of 454 calendars. All of the profits made from sales go to help buy new equipment for the program, and it also goes to the Minnesota Freshwater Foundation and the Science Museum. Mini-School will be selling calendars up until Christmas break.

Some of the top sellers are:

Lacey Landt 26
Matt Evans 28
Aaron Hoerst 19
Trish Lauman 16
Brooke Weitalla 16
Kortnie Hansen 15
Elissa Johnson 13
Katie Tierney 13
Jamie Rasmussen 13
Charlie Urbia 12
Trevor Scott 12



Untitled

t's a Holly Jolly time of year
The joy of having loved ones near
There is glittering magic in the air
Perfect strangers show they care
It's as if the earth's at peace
Your one brief moment all war and hatred
ceased
If we could but hold the feeling
We could create a holiday healing
Then and only then will mankind grow
And we would reap the joy we sow.

By: Barbra Rea {Shaun Johnson's Mom}

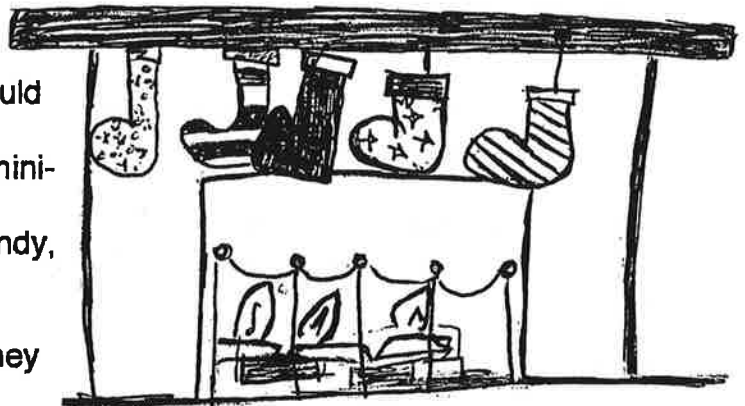
Mini-Schools T'was the Night Before.....

By: Craig Schrupp and Drew Emmings

T'was the night before Christmas, and all through the hall,
Not a student was stirring neither short, fat, or tall.
Little Bromme was stuck in a locker with care.
With hopes that St. Randy soon would be there.
Ed and Matt were nestled all snug in their chairs,
While Shawn and Elissa put gum in their hair.
Joanne in her kerchief, and Doug in his cap,
Couldn't settle their brains, due to Boller's endless rap.
When out of the lot there arose such a clatter,
Young rose from his chair to see what was the matter.
Away to the noise he flew like a flash,
Threw open the door and and tripped over the trash.
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,
Gave the luster of mid-day to objects below.
When what to his wondering eyes should appear,
But Al's 5.0 Mustang, pulled by eight mini-deer.
With a little old driver, so lively and handy,
he knew in a moment it must be St. Randy.
More rapid then eagles his coursers they came,
Randy whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;
"Now Kortnie, now Jesse, now Derek, and Lacey!
On Cheryl, on Andrew, on Aaron, and

Dusty!

To the top of the world, to the top of it all!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!
And then in a twinkling, Young heard on the roof,
The prancing and pawing of each Mini-deer's hoof.
As he drew the door closed, and was turning around,
St. Randy crashed through the roof, and fell flat on the ground.
Randy spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
Correcting those worksheets, then turning with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
With one final nod, up the air vent he rose.
He sprang to his ride, to his deer gave a whistle,
And they all flew out of sight like an Iraqi Scud Missile.
And to all the Mini- Schoolers who we love so dear,
Happy Holidays to all, may you graduate some year!!



Want-Ads
By Goeff Boller

-One female dog named Hazel--has an attitude, \$5,000, Pure bred educated mutt----Joanne Johnston.

-Black; Metal Frame Futon, w/ a 10" Futon mattress. Double. Good cond. \$100

-Large old freezer chest: locks w/ keys. FREE!

-Vintage Monarch Paramount built; 4 burner gas range. 1940's. Clean and works. \$100 or B/O. Call Ramona @ 522-5395

-'90 Ski-Doo GLX 470 liq. Longtrack, 2-up, under 2000mi. New Truck, mint cond. \$1600 or B/O. Call Trevor @ 938-3271

-MN. Weather Guide calender, '99, \$13, Call Aaron @ 949-2198.

-'90 Pontiac Lemans, 140K, MI, Runs great. Great winter starter. 98% rust free! \$600 or B/O. Call Trish Laumann @ 934-3002.

-Photographer!! Does: Weddings, portraits, (individual or group shots) And any other photos a photographer takes! Call Leah Shoberg @ 492-3273.

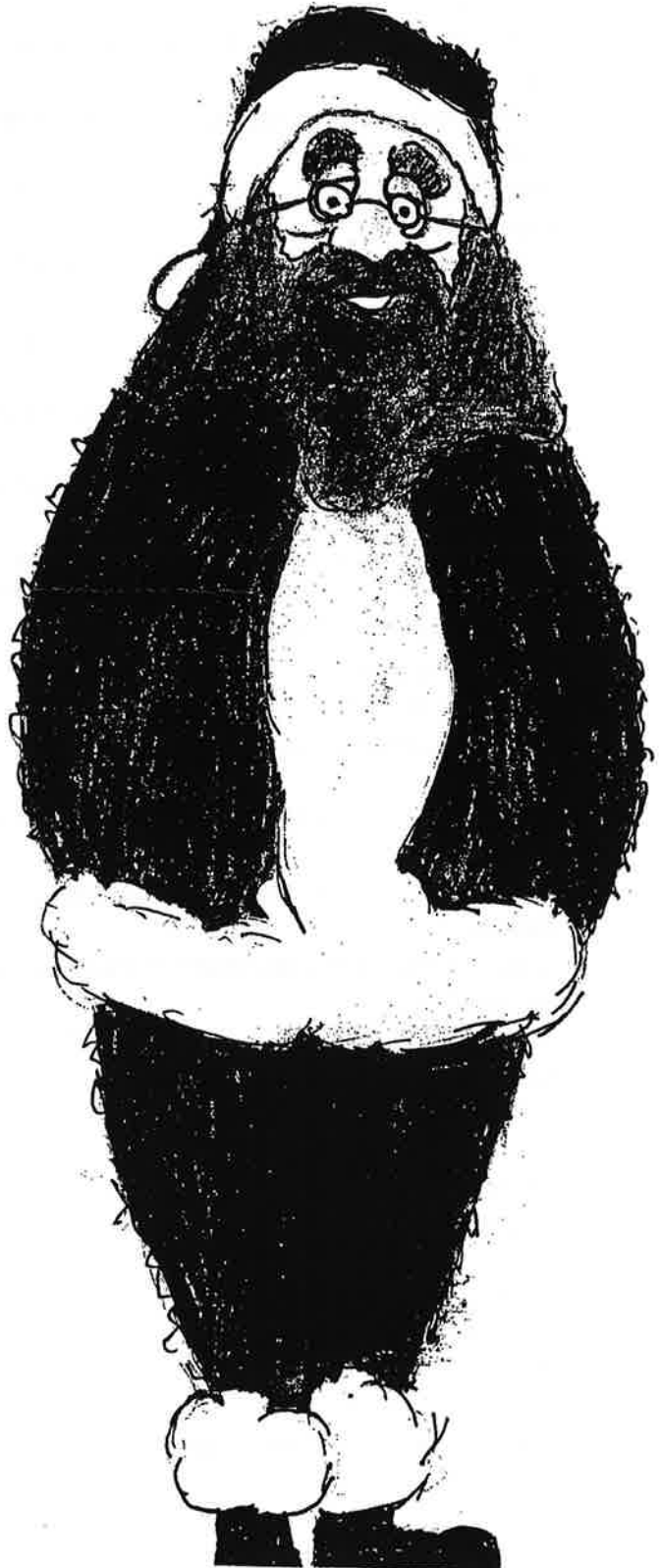
-For Sale: Sierra Designs 3 man Dome tent. \$50. Call Doug @ 474-7706.

-Bass AMP---Deavy Practice AMP, Best Offer, Call Jessi @ 934-5520.

-'84 VW Cabriolet Convertible, Maroon, 115,000mi, \$3000, Call Jamie @ 813-0055

-'94 Never Summer Twin Tip 147 w/ bindings. \$200 or B/O

-Coat-Field & Stream, Goose down feather parka, Large, \$50. Call Matt @ 401-9163.



Environmental Issues

**By: Jamie O'Day and
Laura Huberty**

The government has decided to reroute Hwy. 55 to make traveling more convenient. The Hwy. would start at 46 St. and would travel to Hwy. 62, a 4 lane highway with shoulders, turn lanes, tunnels, and berms. It would be considered the best way for traveling from the downtown Mpls. area to the Airport and to the Mall Of America. It will be 3.5 minutes faster than the present route.

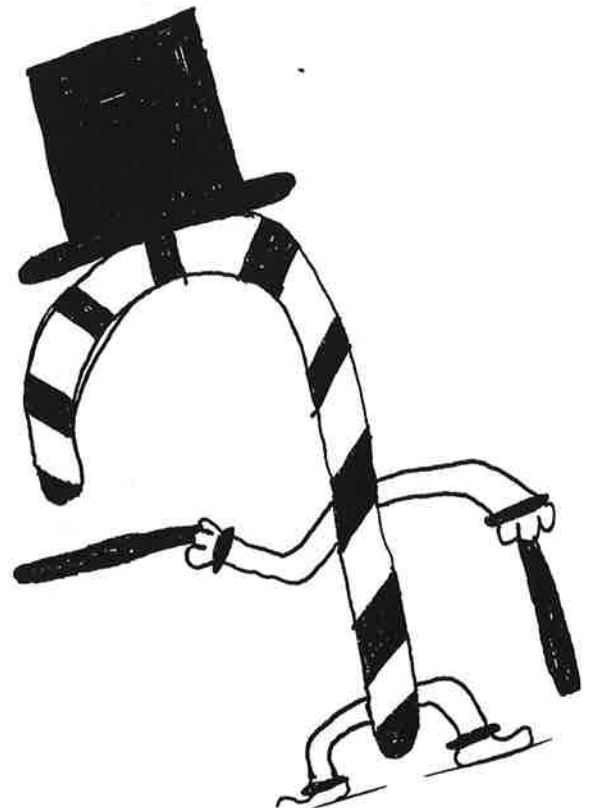
The land and the homes that they must tear down involves the Minnehaha park and surrounding neighborhood. 40 years ago this land belonged to the Federal Mines. The Government decided to preserve it, hoping that someday they would build a freeway right along the river wall. That day has now come.

The citizens were called together as a group and were given 120 different options. None of the options included the Minnehaha area being destroyed.

Earthfirsters and many other concerned individuals have been fighting to prevent this from happening. They have led and conducted several rallies, sit-ins, hunger strikes and marches but still no positive reaction. The Earthfirsters got involved when they received a call for help from one couple who refused to leave their home. The Earthfirsters set up camp in their front yard. Unfortunately all their efforts have been ignored.

People have been fighting the destruction of Hiawatha for years. Not only have residents' homes been sacrificed but also the sacred sites of the Mendota Mdewakaton Dakota community have

been jeopardized. By giving up an extra 3.5 minutes of your time you would be saving over 100 mature oak trees, some of which are over 200 years old. The famous Minnehaha Falls would continue to flourish. Not to mention the preservation of Camp Coldwater Springs and the sacred sites of the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota community.



Sexual Violence

By: Jamie Rasmussen

On November 24th Mini-School had a sexual violence speaker come in to talk with students about inappropriate mannerisms of sexual conduct. Suzi Kim defined sexual violence as a weapon used against another to gain power and control. Consent is the same as permission which is what one needs to be given in order to keep from being accused or charged with a sex crime.

Suzi Kim stated a scenario that consisted of a teenage male and female at a party. The male is a high school student who is valued by his community. The female is new to the area and the High school. Quickly, after learning about how special this guy is, she doesn't think to hesitate when he tries to put the moves on her. Instead, she keeps her thoughts to herself and doesn't resist as he has intercourse with her even though she is very uncomfortable. With the scenario in mind a question is then asked to the class. Is the female to blame? Most of the class agreed to her being at total fault, some believed half and half and one person believed she had little fault at all. Not one person chose to believe that she wasn't to blame at all and was innocent. The law sees it that way because even though she didn't say "no" she also didn't say "yes" either. Therefore, he's guilty of sexual violence. It must be remembered that consent can only be given when not under the influence.

Sexual perpetrators are people of all types. Size, shape, color, age, sex have nothing to do with the identity of one. Both sexes are capable of committing a sexually violent act and not necessarily with the opposite sex. Family members

may suffer incest. Even the nicest, clean cut people cannot be excused. Looks can be deceiving. Prostitution is related to sexual violence because rights are violated when one is controlled by another like they are owned.

Statistics prove to be higher for women than men who are violated. However, because of the reputation of men all cases are not accounted for. Society has recently made it easier for women to come forth. There is zero tolerance for sexual harassment. No one deserves to have their confidence stripped from them. If you or someone you know has been violated or would like more information please call the crisis hot line at 871-5111



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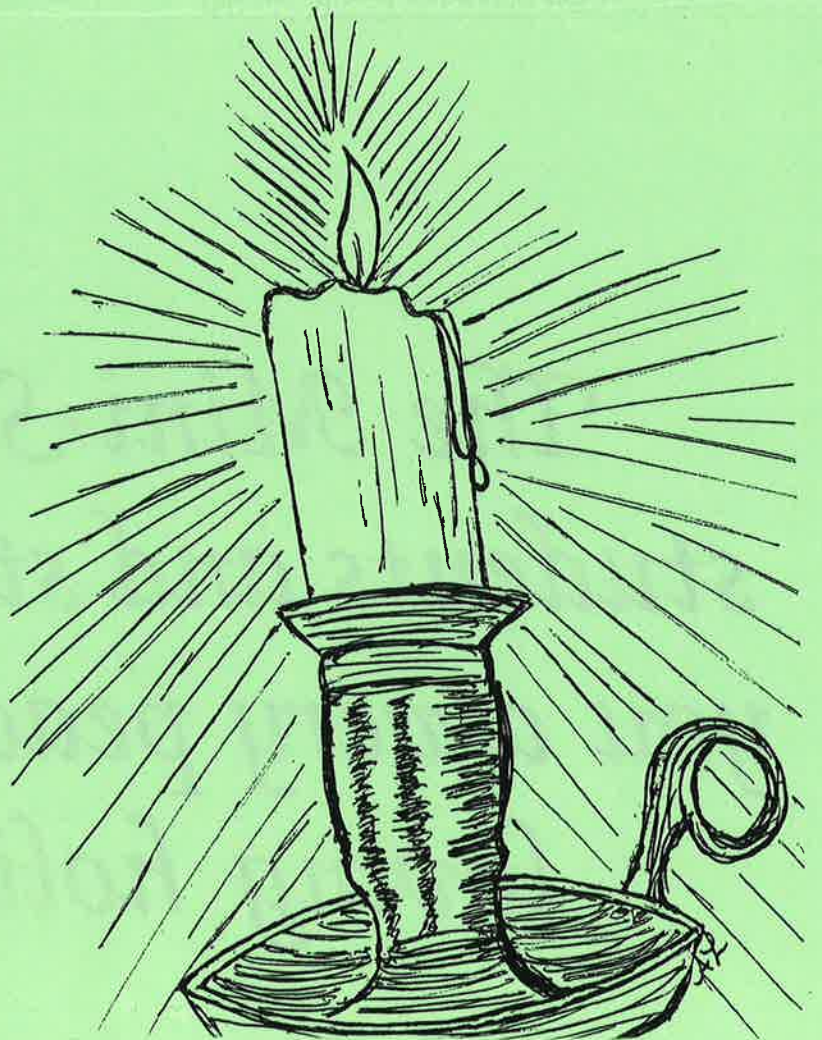
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Address Correction Requested



*The Mini-School
students and staff wish
you a very peaceful and
loving holiday!*