

# The Spartan Star

For Students, By Students

Volume II, Number II

November/Thanksgiving Edition

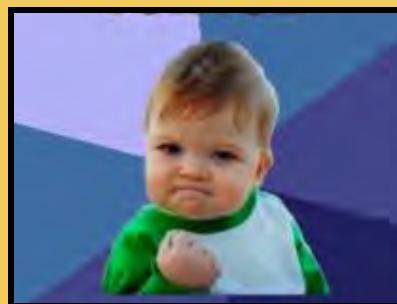
***Thanksgiving is just around the corner!***



***Page 2*** - Read about the Holiday of Thanksgiving.



***Movie Reviews*** - Reviews on the latest movies! (pg. 11)



***Middle School Meme Review*** - MSMR (pg. 14)



***Dodgeball*** - the games (pg. 8)

***Look for an Origami Turkey Tutorial by William DeBruin on our website (below)!***

Spartan Star Website: [sites.google.com/d181students.org/tss](https://sites.google.com/d181students.org/tss)

Review form: <https://forms.gle/n7PUnbmJBkXFEGjKA>

## **Thanksgiving**

Thanksgiving... for many, it is just second in line to Christmas or Halloween. The feasts, the memories, and most importantly... the gratefulness.

Thanksgiving is really a time for gratefulness, but many people have forgotten the true meaning of Thanksgiving. This wonderful holiday is now commonly associated with food, and family. While both of these are good things, the true meaning of Thanksgiving is to be thankful for everything that you have.

Thanksgiving has been celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November for a long time, but some presidents have actually changed it one week earlier. Additionally, it wasn't actually celebrated as a holiday until long after the actual day of Thanksgiving. We all remember learning about the Wampanoag Natives, the Pilgrims, and the feast. Many of the things that we do at Thanksgiving are

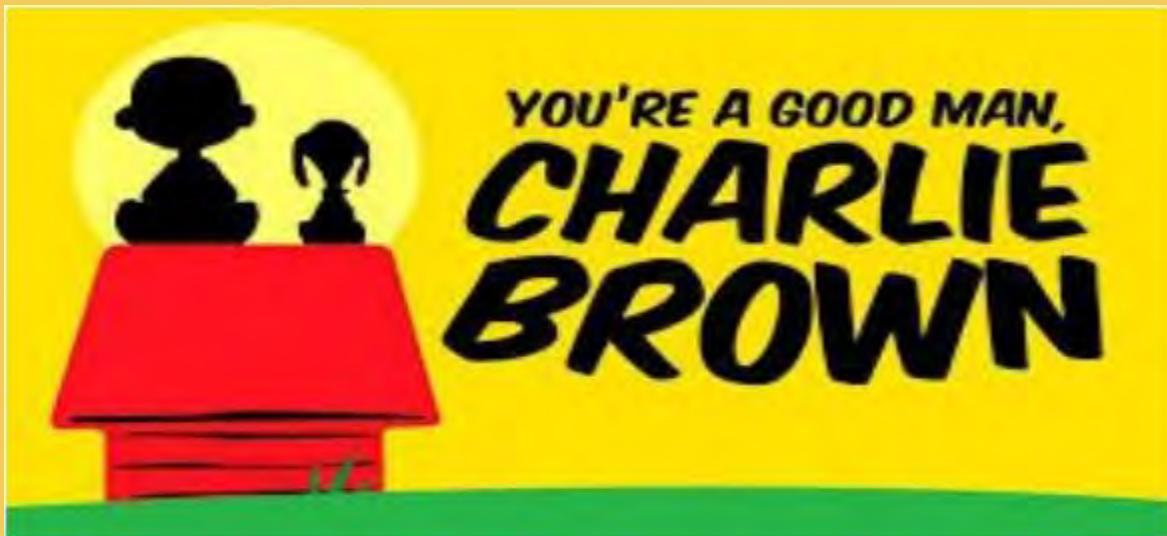
based off of that very first Thanksgiving... but some people think that this is not the case. According to some sources, the Wampanoag Natives have a tradition in their tribe to give thanks every day.

The Wampanoag Natives were a group of people in the New England Colonies when the thirteen original colonies were still a thing. One very famous Wampanoag that you may have heard of in Social Studies is Squanto. He is very well-known for helping the Pilgrims when they attempted to survive in the harsh conditions in the New England Colonies and around Massachusetts. Squanto supposedly showed the Pilgrims how to plant corn. This would have been a great help to the Colonists as food was no longer that great of a problem for those at Cape Cod. That is one thing to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. Squanto and the Pilgrims... without them, the USA we know and love today wouldn't be the great economic

powerhouse it is today, but still the weak 13 colonies of Britain.

There are many things to be thankful for on Thanksgiving and one of the most obvious ones is family. Without your family, you would have never come into this world or known how to survive. Even if you're adopted, your family is still there for you. They are the ones who raised you, and even your siblings should be appreciated on this great day. After all, haven't they done *something* nice for you? However hard it might be to think of even one thing that you should be thankful for, there are plenty of things out there in the whole wide world to appreciate and appreciate the things that it has done for you or the world.

~Shreemann Patel,  
7th grade



**Come check out the school musical, featuring “You’re a good man, Charlie Brown” and support your friends as they perform this splendid musical!**

**Performances:**

- Thursday, December 5th 7:00p
- Friday, December 6th 7:00p
- Saturday, December 7th 2:00p and 7:00p

**Ticket Prices:**

- Adults: \$10
- Students - \$7
- Come buy tickets during lunch!

**Where:**

- Hinsdale Middle School, 100 S Garfield Street

**Donations are welcome and needed.**

- Donations can include money, time, or any other services that could be required for our show! Contact Mrs. Sipka for more details ([asipka@d181.org](mailto:asipka@d181.org)).

*Natalia Siedlecki, Whitney Selman, Chichi Oranu (all 7th grade)*



### You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown

Unless you've been living under a rock, you've heard of this year's musical at HMS. This year, the musical is *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and many of our peers are in it! According to prominent characters in the play (Grace M, who plays Lucy, Sarah M, who plays Sally, and Anya R, who is a soloist), the musical is "a very sweet show with very cute themes", "an awesome show", and "well worth it... a FABULOUS musical!" When I asked her why students should come see the musical, Ms. Sipka said, "Because it's awesome!" Ms. Sipka and her pupils have all worked very hard on the play, and therefore, you should come see it the week after Thanksgiving Break!

~Ayla Musthaq, 7th



**Honorable mention:** JJ of 7th grade (right) is a newspaper member and is in the Musical Crew.



## Hot Air Balloon

### *Staff Contribution*

Designing and building hot air balloons is an exciting engineering task. In the past few weeks the eighth grade Science students were challenged to design and create a model of a hot air balloon that would rise in a straight flight to the ceiling of the atrium as quickly as possible. They also had to answer the questions: How does heat affect the behavior of the particles of air and how does heat affect the density of air. The balloon was constructed using tissue paper and Elmer's Glue. Pictured is one of the successful designs that rose to the ceiling of the atrium! The balloon was crafted by **Karla Carrillo, Izel Doyle, Victoria Kawa, and Faustina Zabulionyte**,

*Campbell - bottom*

*Powers - top right*

*Vorreyer - top left*

**Photo credit: Adhvay Arvind**

## Door Decoration Winners:

Vorreyer - 6th

Powers - 7th

Campbell - 8th



## A Taste of France for HMS/CHMS 8th Graders

Several eighth graders went on a French field trip on Thursday, October 17. They went to the Art Institute in Chicago to admire and learn about the beautiful French Impressionist paintings. Then, they ate a three course lunch at a French restaurant named La Sardine, with classic French food, including escargot, which the eighth graders got to try! The trip was educational and unique as well, because this year was the first time French students went with CHMS students, and ate together as well. In addition, this only happened for French students, so it was even more special. The eighth graders had a great time on their foreign language field trip!

*~Catherine, 7th*



## Spanish Field Trip

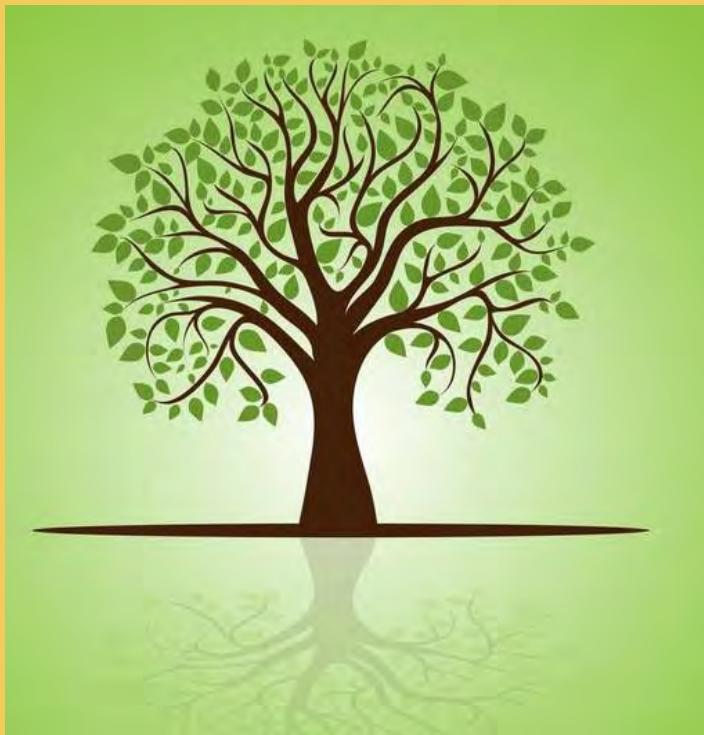
I attended the 8th grade Spanish field trip to the Performing Arts Center in Oak Park on October 17. It was a wonderful trip. The dancers were awesome and their costumes were so beautiful. My mother and cousins actually know the dances. The lead singer I have seen before in other shows. He was great! I knew all the Spanish songs and was able to sing along since I am fluent in Spanish.

After the performance, we went to Las Palmas in Westmont. The food was delicious and you could have as much as you wanted!

Even if you don't speak Spanish, I think you would love this trip.

*~Izel Doyle, 8th*





## Team Trees

#TeamTrees is a fundraiser created by two YouTubers, *Mr. Beast* and *Mark Rober* who are trying to bring more trees back to the world after centuries of deforestation. #TeamTrees was created so the Arbor Foundation could plant 20 million trees. After discovering that planting trees by hand is incredibly tiring, they partnered with the *ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION* to reach his goal. People can donate to this fundraiser and for every dollar that is donated, one tree is planted.

The *ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION* was founded in the state of Nebraska in the year 1972. It was founded by John Rosenow. It is the largest nonprofit membership organization

dedicated to tree planting. This foundation plants approximately 5,000,000 trees per year and has 237 tree campuses. *Mr. Beast* is not the only one pitching in, other people and YouTubers such as: *Rhett & Link*, *Linus Tech Tips*, *Phillip DeFranco*, *Marshmello*, *iJustine*, *Marques Brownlee*, *The Slow Mo Guys*, *Ninja*, *Simone Giertz*, *Jacksepticeye*, *Smart Every Day*, *PewDiePie*, *Simply Nailogical*, *The Try Guys*, *Alan Becker*, *Elon Musk*, and *Jeffree Star* have also helped promote the fundraiser. The fundraiser was organized by *Jimmy Donaldson* and *Mark Rober*. If you wish to donate to the fundraiser, go to [teamtrees.org](https://teamtrees.org)

and help reach the goal of 20 million trees planted by 2020!

#Teamtrees is an important event. By planting 20 million trees, or even more, it can show that we are capable of reversing the effects of climate change. In today's current political climate, it is even more crucial that we need to plant more trees. Not only will they finish the promise of planting 20 million trees help us get a head start on fighting global warming, but it will also prove to the world that this fight isn't over yet.

~Lana Almansoori and Ben Yan



## **The Halloween Dodgeball Tournament**

On Halloween, HMS had an assembly which contained several games of the teachers dueling it out with the students in dodgeball. The six teams along with a good number of HMS staff were throwing the dodgeballs with all their might trying to get the opposing team eliminated. This started with many qualifying teams signing up to see who could get into

the finals for the assembly. Many teams signed up, but only a few were able to go to the assembly. All the games were under the control of the student council, who acted as the referees. All the qualifying teams played in the gym in the morning. The many teams dwindled down to six: 6th grade girls, 6th grade boys, 7th grade boys, 7th grade girls, 8th grade boys, and 8th grade girls.

The first game that was held in the assembly was the 6th grade girls, who all had jerseys with basketballs on them. Everyone screamed to cheer the players, especially Mr. Dzija. They held on for a while until the teachers pulled out with a small portion of time left to spare, with three teachers left on the court.

The next game was played by 6th grade boys, who wore white jerseys with



made up names and numbers on them. As the clock was down by less than 1 and a half minutes, the boys finally struck out the last teacher, with four of the 6th grade boys still left on the court.

The game that was held next was the 7th grade boys, who wore the same attire as the 6th grade boys. The game was picked up with a level change and the dodgeballs were thrown much faster than before. Even though the 7th grade boys put up a good fight, the teachers eventually came out victorious.

The teachers needed a break, so the 7th grade boys and the 6th grade boys played against each other. They both played really

hard, but after a few minutes, the 7th grade boys won in the end.

The teachers were all rested up so they went on with the 7th grade girls, who wore an assortment of costumes. The teachers and students raced for the balls, but eventually, the girls gave in and the teachers won their third game.

The teachers and students felt ready so they held the fourth game of the assembly. The 8th grade girls played with different costumes, like the 7th grade girls. After a little over 2 minutes left, the teachers threw that one last ball and it landed on the last girl out on the court.

Finally, the last game was held against the 8th grade boys. The buzzer sounded

and both teams rushed for the balls on the centerline. One by one, teachers and students got out until the boys struck out the last teacher with three kids left on the court.

These games that were held in this assembly were some of the most exciting games anyone had ever seen. You could tell by the cheers and sighs of losing and winning the games. All the people who competed against the teachers were high paced and edge-of-your-seat type of games. This is something you will only get to see at HMS, and is definitely an exciting activity for both teachers and students alike.

*~William DeBruin*





## HMS Orchestra Concert

Just recently, the HMS Chamber Strings and grade-level orchestras had a concert at our very school. If you weren't there to see it, don't worry... there are always more to go to in the future! At this concert, all 4 HMS string ensembles played different songs. The 6th grade orchestra played "March Momentous" by Elliot Del Borgo, "Legend of Dark Mountain" by Soon Hee Newbold, and "Sunchasers" by Tanner Otto. "March Momentous" had lots of feelings and not only was it played by the orchestra, but also at the 1988 Olympics! "Legend of Dark Mountain" was a song that portrayed mythology and all the gods and monsters that make it up. There are many parts during this piece where the bass section (cello and bass) and the higher instruments (violin and viola) had what we call *arguments*. This happens when one part plays, then another, then the first again, all of this in a very loud and dynamic way. "Sunchasers" is a quick and happy song composed by Tanner Otto in his mid-20s. All of the sections have a great part in this song and according to some 6th graders, it is easy to get stuck in your head. They did a very good job playing all of these songs and it was really worth going to the concert to hear them play. One other ensemble, the 7th grade orchestra, played "Mahler's Mysterious March" by Gustav Mahler and arranged by Jim Palmer, "Ear-igami" by Richard Meyer, and "A Knight's Quest" by Loreta Fin. "Ear-igami" is by far the best one that they played as they played their instruments with blue pieces of cardstock. The song was very much like a Japanese traditional song and really reminded you of origami...but it

was for the ears, which is most likely why Mr. Meyer decided to call it "Ear-igami". "A Knight's Quest" and "Mahler's Mysterious March" were also very interesting songs that were mysterious. "A Knight's Quest" was very medieval and was dedicated to the cellos. "Mahler's Mysterious March" was a variation on "Mahler's Theme", which was "Frere Jacques" in D minor. 8th grade orchestra played very complicated songs such as "Get Reeling" by Neridah Oostenbroek, "Aurora Borealis" by Michael Hopkins, and "Boreas" by Todd Parrish. All of these songs were very impressive and the tune was really catchy. According to some of the 8th graders who performed "Get Reeling", it was not challenging to perform but the tempo (speed) was quite fast. Just like the name suggests, the song "Aurora Borealis" reminds the audience of the night sky and watching the stars. It turns out that in this piece, the violas have a bigger role to play than in usual songs. "Boreas" sends a chill down your spine and it was perfect for this concert as Boreas is the Greek god of the north wind. This song has a lot of staccato and as an audience member, I really enjoyed it. Out of all of the orchestras, Chamber Strings is the only auditioned string ensemble at HMS. They audition to play outside of the town and even out of state. This ensemble was one of few at middle school level selected to go to Peoria, Illinois to the Illinois Music Educators Conference (IMEC). This is a really big deal and is actually one of the highest recognitions a public school group can receive. At the concert, the songs that Chamber Strings performed at the concert were "Eleanor Rigby" composed by The Beatles and arranged by Larry Moore, "M to the Third power (Minor Meter Mix)" by Carold Nunez, and "Viva la Vida" by Coldplay, also arranged by Larry Moore, and all of these songs were quite impressive. "Viva la Vida" is a song that is still played on a radio. "M to the Third Power" is a very fast song with a great beat, and "Eleanor Rigby" was a song written by the Beatles a long time ago, but is still a great song.  
~Shreemann Patel, 7th

## Movie Reviews

### Ford Vs. Ferrari

**FORD vs. FERRARI** is one of the best movies of the year, in my opinion. From the first time I saw the cast for this movie, I realized it was loaded with star power with the likes of Matt Damon and Christian Bale. A good cast is a recipe for a good movie and this film is no different. Matt Damon's and Christian Bale's performances are both worth Best Supporting Actor Oscars. This movie gets your heart racing and has you completely leaning forward in anticipation of what comes next! The car races totally blew me away. The angle of the camera made you feel like you were in the car, not just watching as a bystander. Not only that, the movie was very fast-paced, switching from one view to the next. The viewer was mesmerized watching the cars go flying by after they finished a lap. Although the beginning starts off slow, these scenes are key and play a big part to set up the second and third acts. All in all, **FORD vs FERRARI**'s amazing racing scenes and incredible performances make it one of my favorite movies. I would give this a 100/100.

*~William Gatzulis, 7th*



### Harriet



*Harriet* is a thrilling production focused on the life of famed underground tunnel conductor, Harriet Tubman. The movie starts with a woman named Araminta Ross and her husband John Tubman on her master's field. John is a freed slave, but Araminta still labors for her master. The fact that she has not yet been freed is important to the storyline, and drives her to help other slaves. There are many amazing components to this movie. For starters, the impeccable acting brings you into their world with them, and adds greatly to the realism. In addition, the singing capabilities of the actors adds more historical connection, as slaves would sing to express their feelings. The movie includes humor and wit. The only downside I found in this movie was the way the director made Harriet seem like a holy figure just exaggerated too much, and took away from the effect it had beforehand. This movie is a must-watch for anyone with two hours to spare.

*~Yusouf Hakim, 7th*

## Big Rewards for Small Art

On Wednesday, November 6, 2019, there was an art show called the Chicagoland 4x5 hosted at Oswego High School. The Chicagoland 4x5 is named so because all the pieces of artwork submitted must be 4 inches by 5 inches, and is also known as the “The Largest ‘Small’ Art Exhibit in the Nation”. There could be 2D pieces of artwork, 3D pieces of artwork (sculptures 4”x5”x4”4”x5”x5”, or 4”x4”x5”), or relief work (a 3D piece of artwork slightly like a sculpture, and is carved or raised out of a material and attached to that background material). The show was originally only for high school students, but according to Hinsdale Middle School art teacher Mrs. McGee, “This is the *first* year the Chicagoland 4x5 program opened up the show to middle school and I am so proud of the amazing conceptual ideas and extraordinary skilled work the HMS kids produced.”

There were approximately 2000 pieces of artwork from mostly high school students and 15 middle school students, including HMS. The art and digital media students showcased were **Sofia Antonelli, Abigail AuYeung, Lola Baca, Johann Balbach, Analise Burns, Claire Chung, Caitlin Haines, Tecoa Jankowski, Beatrice Murphy, Alasdair Wudtke, Bia Zeb** and **Catherine Yan**. Additionally, the following students received Honorable Mentions (these are awarded the top 10% of artwork on display): **Calista Chang, Eshan Doshi, Angela Lim, Maddie Miller, and Ayla Mushtaq**.

Congratulations to overall place winners **Lauren Terry** (2nd place) and **Caroline Petersen** (3rd

place)! Hinsdale Middle School students had *more award winners than any* other middle school! HMS is also the only middle school to have award winners place in both the 2D Traditional and Digital Media categories! Congratulations to HMS art and digital media students! Additionally, 178 award-winning works “will be exhibited in a special gallery showing” at Water Street Studio Gallery in Batavia on Friday, December 13th and at the Illinois High School Art Exhibition in Chicago at the Zhou B Art Center on Sunday, March 8th.  
~Catherine Yan, 7th  
Additional photos:  
<sites.google.com/d181students.org/tss>



## Thanksgiving Word Search

Shreemann Patel

T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G	P	I	T
W	Z	O	T	E	M	W	E	F	V	Z	G	E	S	H
N	E	F	B	W	I	L	O	V	R	N	I	C	W	I
O	L	G	G	Q	R	E	M	E	I	S	H	A	N	E
V	F	D	B	Y	G	E	Y	D	G	G	S	N	P	K
E	Q	S	G	Z	L	R	D	N	F	C	K	D	C	A
M	B	I	H	O	I	U	I	R	S	U	Y	I	I	Q
B	A	G	G	E	P	D	G	M	P	R	G	P	T	B
E	H	W	J	W	D	T	R	U	R	S	O	L	S	B
R	I	T	U	R	K	E	Y	E	A	C	O	I	U	I
Q	L	W	E	R	P	O	B	M	U	I	D	I	L	L
F	O	O	D	Y	U	N	U	N	A	T	I	V	E	S
A	L	J	I	T	A	C	R	R	F	D	U	O	U	N
S	D	M	K	R	C	O	R	N	O	R	Y	K	F	C
G	F	N	C	E	C	O	I	U	I	R	S	U	Y	I

- 1) Thanksgiving
- 2) Turkey
- 3) Cornucopia
- 4) Corn
- 5) Pudding
- 6) Food
- 7) November
- 8) Natives
- 9) Cranberry
- 10) Pecan
- 11) Pilgrims

*Answers on page 18*

## Middle School Meme Review

*Haris Smajkic and Thomas Kirchev*

When kids say they can't wait to grow up

### **MEME STARS:**

This is a kind of funny meme, but it is easy to relate to, and makes you laugh, because you probably have said this before.



The school presentation, when kids are put in the front of the class and try their best to not embarrass themselves. But we can't say the same for Shrek.

### **MEME STARS:**

This meme is very funny, because everyone has probably shared a presentation, and did not feel really good about it. It also includes Shrek, and everyone loves seeing the character Shrek in a funny meme.

When you finish a school presentation and it was terrible



<p>When you have a test, you have to study, but when you don't study...this happens</p> <p><b>MEME STARS:</b></p> <p><b>.5</b></p>	<p>when you look at your test and realize you know absolutely nothing</p> 
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Would you like to contribute to MSMR? Contact Mrs. J. Frawley at [jfrawley@d181.org](mailto:jfrawley@d181.org)

Thanksgiving, relaxable and enjoyable family time.

I'll get the turkey

And I'll get the gravy

Though it's best to avoid complications involving a tricky form of turkey magic...

To affect the outcome...

Aren't turkeys part of the Thanksgiving meal?

Yep

Emil Simmons

Comment on the newspaper!

<https://forms.gle/n7PUnbmJBkXFEGjKA>

# Fun Fact Calendar!

1 In 1386 a pig was hung for murder of a child	2 The largest recorded snowflake was 15 inches wide	3 The average person spends 6 months waiting on a red light	4 A single cloud can weight 1M pounds	5 Coca-Cola would be green if coloring wasn't added to it.	6 New York drifts about an inch from London each year
7 A sneeze travels about 100 miles per hour	8 10% of the world's population is left handed	9 It is physically impossible for a pig to look at the sky	10 About 150 people are killed per year by coconuts	11 Veteran's day	12 Avocados are poisonous to birds
13 A man changed his name to "Tim Poooooooooooo"	14 Cherophobia is the fear of fun	15 Our eyes never grow	16 Earth is the only planet that is not named after a god	17 "Jiffy" is a scientific name for 1/100th of a second	18 steamboat Willie 91st ✿ Mickey's BDay
19 A traffic jam lasted 10 days	20 Mountain lions can whistle	21 Cats have 32 muscles in each of their ears	22 Thanks-giving	23 The tongue of a blue whale weighs more than most elephants	24 A hummingbird weighs less than a penny
25 An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain	26 Saturn's density is low enough to float on water	27 Only one in 2 billion will live to be 116 or older	28 There are no clocks in Las Vegas gambling casinos	29 You can't hum with your nose closed	30 On Jupiter and Saturn it rains diamonds

Information pulled and calendar made by Lana Almansoori, 7th grade.

T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G	P	I	T
W	Z	O	T	E	M	W	E	F	V	Z	G	E	S	H
N	E	F	B	W	I	L	O	V	R	N	I	C	W	I
O	L	G	G	Q	R	E	M	E	I	S	H	A	N	E
V	F	D	B	Y	G	E	Y	D	G	G	S	N	P	K
E	Q	S	G	Z	L	R	D	N	F	C	K	D	C	A
M	B	I	H	O	I	U	I	R	S	U	Y	I	I	Q
B	A	G	G	E	P	D	G	M	P	R	G	P	T	B
E	H	W	J	W	D	T	R	U	R	S	O	L	S	B
R	I	T	U	R	K	E	Y	E	A	C	O	I	U	I
Q	L	W	E	R	P	O	B	M	U	I	D	I	L	L
F	O	O	D	Y	U	N	U	N	A	T	I	V	E	S
A	L	J	I	T	A	C	R	R	F	D	U	O	U	N
S	D	M	K	R	C	O	R	N	O	R	Y	K	F	C
G	F	N	C	E	C	O	I	U	I	R	S	U	Y	I

## Happy Thanksgiving from the Newspaper!

Not shown in photo: Emil Simmon, Ethan Gronlund, Ayla Mushtaq, and Yicole Ng

BE THANKFUL



# The Spartan Star

For Students, By Students

Volume II, Number III

Holiday Edition

## *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!*



**Page 2** - The result of hard work... congrats all that were in the musical! Photo credit: Yicole N, Natalia S (7th)



New Winter Movies (pg. 3)



[sites.google.com/d181students.org/tss](https://sites.google.com/d181students.org/tss)



Christmastime : page 4

## You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

The HMS 2019 musical, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, took place right here at Hinsdale Middle School from December 7-9. This Broadway musical was made of moments and characters that were featured in the original comic strip by Charles M. Schulz, such as the Red Baron and the “little red-haired girl”, and is about happiness and simple days in the life of the Peanuts’ gang.

Many people loved the show, including Mrs. Williams (7th Grade Social Studies) and Ms. Scacco (6th-8th Grade ACE). The musical was directed by Mr. Dusek, Mr. Clements, and Mrs. Sipka. Mr. Tabisz and Ms. Clarin worked on

choreography and chorus. We would like to extend a huge shout out to all of them! All cast and crew would like to thank them for making this musical possible. The teachers did an amazing job with the props, the scenes, choreography, songs, and sound/lights for this outstanding production! We also want to give a round of applause to the special needs teachers and the custodial staff. All of the cast, crew, assistant directors, and managers did an amazing job of bringing the show to the HMS stage. We would also like to thank everyone who saw the show. This musical has meant so much to everyone, especially fellow Peanuts fans! More photos on spartan star website.

~Chichi, Natalia, Yicole, Whitney,  
7th grade



## Winter Movie Review

This winter, it's going to be a race for second place at the box office. Leading the pack will be **STAR WARS: THE RISE OF STARWALKER** with a projected domestic gross of over 800 million dollars! Here are all the movies you need to know about that are arriving this holiday season: Coming out November 15th is **FORD vs FERRARI**. This film tells the incredible story of how Ford motors beat a Ferrari automobile in the annual 24 hours of Le Mans. At the time of this writing, **FORD vs. FERRARI** stands at 91% on "Rotten Tomatoes", which is very good. This movie also has a cast headed by Matt Damon and Christian Bale. (See my review on **FORD vs. FERRARI**). Two sleepers that could do well when award season comes around are **A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD** starring Tom Hanks, and **DARK WATERS** starring Mark Ruffalo. These

movies both place great actors in the leading roles, and are doing impressively with critics. Both movies have a score of over 90% on "Rotten Tomatoes". Another movie that could make a splash at the box office is the "kid friendly" **FROZEN 2**. According to "Rotten Tomatoes", **FROZEN 2** is scheduled to make 500 million dollars in the U.S. **FROZEN 2** is the sequel to the 2013 blockbuster **FROZEN**, starring Josh Gad and Kristen Bell. One critically acclaimed movie that is on the top of my list to check out this holiday season is **KNIVES OUT**. **KNIVES OUT** is a whodunnit directed by Rian Johnson. It stars Chris Evans, Daniel Craig and Jamie Lee Curtis. Moving into December, there are two movies that will dominate the box office. Releasing December 13th is **JUMANJI:THE NEXT LEVEL**. Following up on 2017's **JUMANJI:WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE**, the current film release takes

place in the same game, with the same characters. It stars Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, Karen Gillian, and Jack Black. Finally, on December 20th the much anticipated and number one pick of the holiday season , **STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER** will be released! **THE RISE OF SKYWALKER** is the final movie in the Skywalker saga, which spans over 40 years. This movie brings back Emperor Palpatine and looks action packed. Some analysts think this movie could break the Avengers Endgame box office record of 2.796 billion dollars. **THE RISE OF SKYWALKER** stars Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver, Oscar Isaac, and John Boyega. Some analysts think this movie could break the **AVENGER'S ENDGAME** box office record of 2.796 billion dollars!

~William Gatzulis, 7th

## Christmastime - The History and True Meaning Behind Christmas



The reason we know Christmas today is because of the birth of Jesus. While many of us believe in Christianity, many other cultures and countries have adopted Christmas as a national holiday as well. Christmastime is the season of giving, where you give, and, in return, you get. Christmas

has also been adopted as a time to give thanks and relax and enjoy your day.

The first Christmas was the day that Jesus was born. According to [whychristmas.com](http://whychristmas.com), the first recorded date of Christmas being celebrated was December 25th, 336 AD. During this time, Constantine was ruling the Roman Empire and he was the first Christian emperor of Rome; however, [history.com](http://history.com) argues that Christmas was the Christian's way of celebrating the winter solstice.

Many different Christmas traditions have also been adopted from the first Christmas, one of which was the decorating of houses. The Germans can be credited with the centerpiece of many of our homes according to [history.com](http://history.com). It stated that during the 16th century, "devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes". Once this tradition started in Germany, it spread across Europe and eventually made its way around the world. The reason that the present-giving began is to remind us every year that Christ gave us the gifts of life and all the wonderful things that we have today, so we can extend that for somebody else as well.

~ Shreemann Patel, 7th

## Sugar Cookies



**Photo Credit to Shreemann Patel**

**Serves:** 45 cookies

**Time:** Depends

### Notes:

These are icing cookies, so these go great alone but even better WITH THE ROYAL ICING.

## Ingredients

### Cookie:

- 3 sticks soft butter
- 1.5c sugar
- 3tbsp cream cheese
- 1 egg
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp almond extract
- 1tsp salt (kosher)
- 1.5 c all purpose flour

- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp of baking powder
- 1 tsp cream of tartar

### Icing:

- $\frac{1}{4}$  c pasteurized egg whites
- 4c powdered sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla
- Gel food color
- Water, as needed

### Directions:

1. Cream together butter, sugar, and cream cheese on high speed for about 5 minutes until fluffy and sugar is mostly dissolved. Add the egg and yolks, extracts and mix.
2. Sift the flour, salt, baking powder, and cream of tartar into a bowl of dry ingredients. Gradually add dry ingredients into the wet mixture.
3. Chill in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours or 3-4 days.
4. Preheat the oven to 350 F. On a floured surface, roll out the dough to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thickness. Cut out cookies from cold dough and place onto pan. Chill for another 20 mins.
5. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Cool completely.
6. Sift powdered sugar into a bowl. Put all the liquids onto one side of the bowl and slowly incorporate them . Divide into bowls and add food coloring. Using a piping bag or just a spoon ( or even the dip method), ice your cookies with the royal icing.
7. Let them sit a while to let the icing harden.

Youtube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EF-9I38ud4s>

## A “Grace”-ful Goodbye

Have you all seen the puzzle in the library with the face of Grace Bian and her friends on it? Well, that's because our good friends Grace Bian (8th) and Ethan Bian (6th) are moving away to Florida. They're moving because their father just got a new job, and both of them are looking forward to moving to Pensacola Beach to see some sunny weather. The puzzle in the library was completed by the students, and Grace has big plans for it. She's going to hang it up in her room where she'll remember everyone from HMS. It consists of four different pictures all combined into one puzzle with 1014 pieces. The first picture is Grace with cardboard cutouts of Mardi Gras characters.

The second picture is Grace and two of her friends, Analise and Caroline, and the third is Grace with a group of students who completed a Disney-film themed puzzle titled “Through the Years”. Finally, the last one is a photo of Grace's face looking chill and unperturbed by life and whatever it throws at her. Some last words from here are: “HMS means so much to me. I've met some of my favorite people in the whole world here. I've discovered new passions. I'm really gonna miss HMS, but I'm excited to start a new chapter of my life.”



## Streaming Wars



As most of you probably heard, Disney Streaming Plus launched on Tuesday, November 12th, along with a host of new shows and hundreds of Disney movies. Shows like “The Mandalorian” awed audiences around the world. But Disney was not the first company to have a streaming service. Companies like Netflix, Amazon, Apple, and Hulu (Disney) already have an impressive lineup of shows. Although Apple TV+ is relatively new, it boasts Apple as its head company and is free for a year to anyone who purchases an iphone, mac, or ipad. Each streamer has its own reason to acquire.

Netflix has something for everybody. Disney+ has super popular brands. Hulu and Amazon Prime both have opted for quality, and Apple Tv+ has Apple to back them. Do I need to go any further. But launching in 2020 will be HBO’s and NBC Universal’s answer to these streaming platforms. HBO’s introduces HBO Max and NBC’s hosts Peacock. Both will boast original series like HBO Max’s “Green Lantern”, and will include older shows like NBC’s “F.R.I.E.N.D.S” and “The Office”. Right now, Netflix has over 141 million subscribers, but despite being the newest on the block, Disney+ had over 2 million subscriptions on opening day. Disney Plus’s mainline show on launch was “The Mandalorian”. This was the first of many Star Wars live action shows to come. “The Mandalorian” was so

popular it maintained the title of most popular TV show on Rotten Tomatoes for three straight weeks. Disney Plus’s future also looks bright, with 8 confirmed Marvel TV shows coming to Disney Plus, starting next year and going till 2022. Hulu got bought by Disney and is going to be used like a TV provider, and will house some of Disney’s more explicit marvel shows. Netflix, which is the most popular streaming service right now, is not holding back with content creation. Pushed forward in popularity by “Stranger Things, Season 3” Netflix spent a cool 5 billion dollars on content creation in 2019. According to Netflix, this will be the most money that Netflix will spend on content creation. One thing is for sure, these streaming wars are not letting up soon.

~William Gatzulis,  
7th

## Christmas Worldwide

Christmas is coming soon and we all know how we are going to celebrate (and if we are going to celebrate); however, there's a whole world out there with so many different ways to honor the season!

\* **Russia** celebrates Christmas on January 7th because they follow the old "Julian" calendar. They do celebrate Advent but it's 40 days long, November 28th to January 6th. Christmas is also less celebrated than New Year's.

\* **Pakistan**'s Christmas is celebrated but in memory of Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. There are some who celebrate it as a private holiday (how most Christians celebrate Christmas) but Christians only take up 2% of Pakistan's population. Santa Claus in Pakistan is known as "Christmas Baba".

\* **Sweden**'s Christmas time's festivities concur with the Swedish St. Lucia's Day on December 13th. St. Lucia's came from stories told by Monks who first brought Christianity to Sweden. St. Lucia was a Christian girl who was killed for her faith in God in the year 304. One of the most common stories told about her is how she brought food to persecuted Christians in Rome. Both Sweden and Finland keep up the tradition of the Yule Goat, which is built for the start of Advent.

\*In **Latin America** there is a fireworks show at midnight of Christmas Eve.

\*In **Greece**, on Christmas Eve, children play the drum, triangle and sing Kalanda, which are carols. The children will sometimes be rewarded with money, nuts, sweets or dried figs. They also have a traditional decoration which is a shallow wooden bowl with wire on its rim. From that rim hangs a wooden cross wrapped in basil. Each day someone, usually the mother, uses the cross and

basil to sprinkle holy water in every room in their house. This is said to keep bad spirits away, or 'kallikantzaro'!

\* **Estonian** children put their socks or stockings on their window ledges for little elves to put sweets inside on December 24th.

\*In **Armenia**, Christmas is observed on the 6th of January, when they also celebrate Epiphany, the day of the revelation that Jesus is God's son. Some Armenians fast during the week before Christmas and then they have a feast on Christmas Eve, which is called "khetum". Santa Claus supposedly visits on December 31st because Christmas is seen as more of a religious holiday.

\***Ghana** celebrates Christmas from December 20th to the first week of January. Over 66 languages are spoken in Ghana so there are obviously plenty of different cultures, that's why there are so many different festivities during Christmas time. December is also the time of Ghana's cocoa harvest.

\*In **Guatemala**, on December 7th at 6pm, La Quema Del Diablo takes place. This is a ceremony where a model of the devil is burnt. On December 8th, there is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

\*Christmas is also celebrated in the **Palestinian Territories**. Although only 20% of Palestinians are Christian, some Muslims do celebrate Christmas or are proud that Jesus was born in their country as Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

In the world as a whole, more than 2 billion people celebrate Christmas. Nine out of ten people in the United States celebrate Christmas whether they do it religiously or not. There are so many different and interesting ways to celebrate Christmas!

*Lana*

## Christmas in Sweden

In Sweden, which is a country in northern Europe, (Ikea and Spotify come from there), Christmas is celebrated differently than in the U.S.

The name “Santa Claus” comes from Saint Nicklause, but in Sweden, he is known as the “Christmas Gnome”. He looks the same, dressed in red with a big black belt, but one difference between Santa and Gnome is that people believed that there were gnomes working on their farm, so they put out porridge to feed them, not hot chocolate and cookies. Rudolph May get a spare carrot!

In Sweden, there is a special type of soda that is only available to buy around Christmas, which in Swedish is called “Julmust”. There are also multiple treats that can be sold at stores or made at home around Christmas, like “lussebullar (also known as Saffron Buns)”, Marzipan Figures, “knäck”, and many special holiday treats!

There is also a special event called Advent, which is every Sunday until Christmas (There is always the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th week of Advent, where one of candles lights are lit.) One every week, so on Christmas, there are four lights burning. Often a verse is said by the person lighting the candle that always mentions the light getting lit.

In Sweden, there is also a celebration on the thirteenth of December to honor Saint Lucia. The kids wake their parents up dressed as Santas, gingerbread cookies, “starboys”, and more, and at the front is Lucia, with candles in her hair and a red band tied to her stomach, dressed in a white gown. Lucia has a tray with cookies and other treats to present to the parents. Another holiday tradition is that there is also a calender for Christmas that everyone can watch with one new “fifteen minute episode” every day, starting on December 1st and ending on Christmas Eve. There’s a different show every year, and it’s like a cross between a TV series and a movie.



Christmas in Sweden is celebrated on the 24th, which is Christmas Eve in America. There is a yearly show that starts at 3:00 PM live on TV during Christmas Eve, with Disney sketches featuring Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, Robin Hood, Santa's Workshop, and many others. At the end is Jiminy Cricket's solo, “When You Wish Upon a Star”, and trailers of Disney movies that will be released the following year are played. Right after the show is played Santa comes to everyone's house with packages that he personally gives out.

Previously in Sweden, there used to be a Christmas goat at everyone's house, instead of Santa. If they had been good, the children got presents, but if they had been bad they got whipped. You now buy or make Christmas goats out of straw, with red ribbons to hold it together.

In Sweden, there are no stockings, because you are handed the packages directly from Santa. Some are put under the Christmas tree, if Santa doesn't have time or if the present is too big or too heavy for the sack that Santa carries, or if the parents “find” packages somewhere.

This is how different Christmas in Sweden is from Christmas in the U.S.

*~Emil Simmons, Swedish, 6th*

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## **A Student Demo**

### **A Students Demonstration in FCS**

In FACS, the demonstration for how to make a recipe is typically done by students or done with the help of students before the day that the recipe is made by everyone. One of the pairs of students who did a demo were Adhvay Arvind and Shreemann Patel. They did the demo for the Stir Fry Vegetables lab. Although they were short on time and didn't have much time to cook the veggies. They still tasted great, especially with the added salt and pepper. I really recommend trying this recipe out at home. If you are interested in getting the recipe, Mrs. Pietro won't mind giving it to you!

*~Adhvay and Shreemann (7)*



## Six Things To Do Over Break



A few years back, I didn't go anywhere for winter break and I was bored. If you're anything like me, then this article is the perfect one for you. Here are some fun things to do during Christmas break.

**Number One:** If you enjoy baking, there are many good recipes on the Internet. I really recommend the recipe on YouTube by "Tasty" for gingerbread cookies. This is the perfect combination of spices, molasses, and sugar to make the most perfect gingerbread cookies that have ever been created. There is another recipe on that same channel that is called something along the lines of: "How to make the best christmas cookies ever"

**Number Two:** Make a painting or drawing. Although you may not be great at drawing, this is a great choice for when you are bored.

**Number Three:** Are all your friends overseas? Check again! One of them might still be here... maybe not your best friend, but you've got somebody to hang out with!

**Number Four:** Although reading books may not be everybody's favorite thing, it's a great thing to do. You might be more of a *I-don't-like-books* type of person, but there is still a book for you in the vast sea of books in the HPL and our own HMS library. There are gaming books, comic books, and graphic novels for people who like Captain Underpants and that sort. If you need some book recommendations, there's *This Mortal Coil* by Emily Suvada, *Heartless* by Marrisa Myer, and lastly, *The Codename Zero* series by Chris Rylander.

**Number Five:** Family time is important during Christmastime. Do the biggest puzzle that you have ever done with them or simply go out to the movies. I've heard that Frozen II is a pretty good choice for winter. If not, then there is Angry Birds 2, The Lion King, Aladdin, and a whole lot more to choose from.

**Number Six:** Play in the snow (if the weather allows it)! Build snowmen, make snow forts, make snow angels, or have a snowball fight with your friends! Enjoy the pure, sparkling snow, and come home to a warm mug of hot chocolate!

Go enjoy yourself this winter break! Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Kwanzaa!

~Shreemann Patel, 7th

## The Jewish Festival of Lights



Christmas isn't the only big holiday coming up. Hanukkah, a major Jewish holiday, is beginning on December 22<sup>nd</sup>! Hanukkah is one of the most well known Jewish holidays. This is celebrated by lighting a menorah (which is a candelabrum) with 9 branches. Typically one branch is put up higher, and the candle of that branch is used to light the others. Hanukkah is a celebration of the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. In 598 BC, the Babylonians attacked Jerusalem and destroyed the first temple that was built in Jerusalem. The Babylonians had sacked the city, and exiled all Jews from Jerusalem. It was not until King Cyrus of Persia passed an edict that allowed the Jews to return from their exile

that the Second Temple of Jerusalem was reconstructed. This is the main focus of Hanukkah, and the miracles that allowed the Jews to return to the Holy Land.

When celebrating Hanukkah, a candle is lit at sundown each day for eight days. The menorah is representative of the menorah that was lit in the Temple, which blazed for eight days when there was only enough oil to burn for one day. It is also representative of the seven days of creation, with the center candle representing the Sabbath. The Sabbath is the observance of the biblical creation of heaven.

Aside from the lighting of the menorah, there are multiple rituals for Hanukkah. One of these rituals is *pirsum hanes*, or the proclamation of the miracles that occurred when the Second Temple was built. The food that is eaten is mostly oil based, serving as a symbol of the oil based flame that was made for the Temple menorah. These include potato pancakes (known as Latkes), and jelly doughnuts called sufganiyot. Today some families also give children small gifts, one for each of the eight days of the celebration. Hanukkah is an ancient and fascinating holiday, with personal relevance to millions. So, to everyone celebrating something this month, Happy Holidays!

~Yusouf Hakim, 7th

## Teacher's Gifts



There is nothing better than giving. Christmastime is the season of giving and this article is all about what to give! All the teachers in our school would really appreciate a sign of appreciation. Just a note, this article doesn't cover our beloved Encore teachers in fear of making it too long.

For a Language teacher, a card or anything like that is good, since language teachers are pretty chill. Also, another great gift for them would be the simple pencil and pen or even a personalized coffee mug with a language quote on them! If they like a certain animal or dog, give them that kind of a stuffed animal with something like a

sombrero or even a croissant if you wanted.

Something to give to an LA/ELA teacher is their *absolute* favorite book. Once again, you could give them a personalized mug with a quote *from* their favorite book. T-shirts could be a great option as well if you wanted. Even a giant list of books to read would be great for ambitious readers.

Science teachers, there is a whole table of elements that you can make into something cute and funny. For example, you can make a poster or a shirt that says :

Te      Ac      H      Er

by utilizing the periodic table to make a great poster or T-shirt.

PE Teachers are all athletic, so you can make cookies with basketballs and baseballs on them. I'm sure they would like them.

Math teachers are sure to appreciate something to do with their subject. A fancy and really nice notebook with pens and pencils would be great, as would a shirt with a math pun on it. You could also give them a math clock (A mazon sells those).

Here are some gift ideas that can be for any teacher: any kind of personalized mug or bag, with things that a teacher likes on it or just something related to the subject(s) that they might teach you. Another cool thing that many teachers would like is stationery. Mechanical pencils, pens, flairs, or unusual pens are great ideas that they can use to brighten up their grading time. For a very organized teacher you could give them a 2020 planner. Hope you used some ideas and Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Kwanzaa!

~Shreemann Patel, 7th

**SUDOKU**  
**William DeBruin**  
*Answers on page after next*

1		6		3		5	2	
8		3			5			6
	2		6		4	7		8
	6	1	7		3		5	
7		8		2		1		4
		9			6		8	7
		4		7	8			5
3			9		2	6		
5		2		6			7	3

## Comics with Brady McDaniel



## SUDOKU ANSWERS

1	4	6	8	3	7	5	2	9
8	7	3	2	9	5	4	1	6
9	2	5	6	1	4	7	3	8
4	6	1	7	8	3	9	5	2
7	3	8	5	2	9	1	6	4
2	5	9	1	4	6	3	8	7
6	1	4	3	7	8	2	9	5
3	8	7	9	5	2	6	4	1
5	9	2	4	6	1	8	7	3

<p><i>The Explanation and Meme Stars</i></p>	<p><i>DA MEME!!!!</i></p>
<p><b>Santa's To Do List</b></p> <p>This meme really makes you rethink Santa's authority...</p> <p><b>Meme Stars:</b></p> 	
<p><b>Guess the Present</b></p> <p>This is funny because WHY would you think it is a dog when it literally looks like drums?</p> <p><b>Meme Stars:</b></p> 	<p>I hope it's a dog</p> 
<p><i>Continued on next page</i></p>	

### The Overprotective mother

That feeling when your mom makes you put on three jackets and there's still more to go. Apparently, this person's mom isn't done and they *know* it.

Meme Stars:



### Decoration Overload

Every year people rush to decorate their houses for Christmas. This family may have gone a *bit* overload. And they literally paid the price for it.

Meme Stars:



To submit any memes or just rate them, contact [jfrawley@d181.org](mailto:jfrawley@d181.org) or [mmcgrath@d181.org](mailto:mmcgrath@d181.org) who will then give it to the meme editors.



Happy Holidays from  
the Newspaper to You!

[sites.google.com/dl81students.org/tss](http://sites.google.com/dl81students.org/tss)