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NOVI IN THE NEWS

Pages 2-3

Novi students could face major changes if school start times are changed *By: Mandira Sardar*

BEYOND OUR BLUE ROOF

Page 4-5

Will we have a new president? *By: Audrey Wisniewski*

The science behind a meme *By: Eric Ma*

HOLIDAY TALES & TRADITIONS, FAMILY & FESTIVITIES

Pages 6-7

Fun facts to fill YOUR holidays *By: Shashank Madhu*

3, 2, 1, Happy New Year!!!! *By: Zan Malan*

Crazy-expensive places to visit *By: Divya Nelluri*

SPORTS, CLUBS, & ACTIVITIES

Pages 8-9

Multiple leagues dominate European soccer scene *By: Tarun Panampully*

Green and White basketball teams tip-off in all Novi match-up *By: Sanjana Lanka*

NFL playoff excitement begins to build *By: Aaron Zhao*

ENTERTAINMENT & OPINIONS

Pages 10-11

Dear Wildcat *By: Sudeshna P. Kumar*

Adventure, fantasy, and friendship! *By: Nandita Talluri*

What happened to Skywalker? *By: Prannav Kadhirselman*

NOVI IN THE NEWS

Novi students could face major changes if school start times are changed

By: Mandira Sardar

As many of you know, the Novi School Board is considering later start times for middle school and high school. This leaves students with some interesting things to say.

What influenced this proposal?

According to Novi Superintendent Dr. Matthews, this idea went into planning last year. “The idea began during our strategic planning last year. The district identified student mental health as an important area to address. That started the administrative team looking into school start times. We knew that early starts for middle and high school students. So we began to examine how we might be able to change the schedule.” The board used research to back up this proposal.

So, what do students say about the early start now?

Riley Forsyth, a seventh grader, said, “In the morning, I feel very tired but once I get to third hour most of the drowsiness is gone and my day goes on like normal.” Her fellow seventh grader, Nour Krichene, agreed with her.

Alicia Gallardo, an eighth grader, states, “I get up at six to get ready. I don’t feel like waking up at six, and it’s because it’s not very good for me. I would rather wake up at 7:30 to get more sleep, but then I would miss school. So, I make myself wake up at six. I would rather learn while I am awake instead of learning while I’m tired.”

What about buses?

For some kids, it already comes late enough. With the new times, there will likely be overlap with routes and stops and cause issues with student schedules.

With these new start times, the order in which the schools start will change, meaning the time students get dropped off afterschool, will change. Lina Lakhsassi, an 8th grader, makes an interesting point, “If elementary starts before high school, I would have to get up earlier in order to get my brother ready for school, and it would mess up the schedule I already have, since my brother would get out of school before me and have to walk home alone, which is not safe.”

On the other hand, this would make stop times later for some students. Sofia Garnica said that her bus comes in early, around 7:05, even though she lives quite close to the school.

Alicia explains, “It comes really early for us at like 7:10, even though we live about 5 minutes away from the school. I can only imagine what it might be like for kids with the first stop.” So, for kids who have first stop, the bright side is your stop will not be as early.

So what is the School Boards plan? Dr. Matthews has a solution. “Our bus schedule will run much like it does now. We currently have 5 tiers of stops. Next year if this passes we will have 4 tiers of stops. Our transportation office will create the schedule and we will follow it just like we do this year,” according to Dr. Matthews.

What about after-school activities?

If students start later, then they get out of school later, which will have a big impact on afterschool activities in both schools.

“After school activities will be impacted,” Dr. Matthews said, “We hope to minimize the impact by continuing to offer a wide variety of activities. We will still have the late bus after school. We will need to make sure we have a well defined schedule - especially at the high school - so that we can fit everything in after school.”

How will this impact students?

Mia Blaszkiewicz says that “I do theatre and that typically ends at about 4:20. With the delayed time, it would run until about 5:30. That would mess up most of my current schedule.”

“Right now I have more time for sports because my homework load is light now that we are getting to Christmas break. If the start time is pushed back, the after-school sports will start later, and we would have less time to do them. Also, I would have less time in between my activities at home and at school because they will be crammed together to fit in the daylight hours,” said Riley.

With the current start time, Alicia said, “This wouldn’t impact it [my activities] too much because my activities are later in the evening but I have friends who have activities right after school, they would have to rush to their after school activities for the upcoming years.”

Who thinks what?

Nour, Lina, and Mia, do not support this later start time as it would mess up schedules. On the other hand, Riley, Alicia, and Sofia all support the new start times as it allows students to sleep in.

However, Mia and Riley both make interesting points for whether they support the change or not. “If we delay the times, students will still be up very very late doing homework, so in the end, we would get the same amount of sleep that we currently do,” Mia adds.

“I think starting school later will be good for kids so they aren't so tired and can focus on school. They should just bump school start times back so that the kids can get more sleep, I don't think there is a reason to change the order in which the kids go to school though. It makes more sense in the order it is now,” says Riley.

But what about the school board?

The Novi School Board planned to vote on this issue on Thursday, December 19th.

“It is hard to know how the Board will vote. However, we have presented a strong case for this so we hope the Board will be supportive,” according to Dr. Matthews.

BEYOND OUR BLUE ROOF

Will we have a new president?

By: Audrey Wisniewski

As the impeachment hearings for our current president Donald J. Trump continued, new developments formed almost every day. To begin, what exactly is impeachment? To impeach a president means you remove him or her from office or power. The House of Representatives wrote up articles of impeachment. This was a big step because, until this point the House had only been looking into the allegations against Trump. But now they have written up formal charges against Mr. Trump. The President was originally being accused of pressuring the President of Ukraine into starting an investigation into Trump's political opponent Joe Biden.

Once the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives decided to write up articles of impeachment, what happened next? The House wrote two articles formally charging the President. The first article charges Trump with abusing his power as President. And the second charges him with obstruction of Congress (Swaying the work of Congress). Now that he has been officially charged, the impeachment goes to the Senate. This poses a hard challenge for Democrats because the Senate is controlled by Trump's political party the Republicans. The impeachment trial in the Senate has already been set for sometime next year.

Trump has technically been “impeached” by the House, but he hasn't been removed from office. That is why the Senate plays a huge role because if they impeach Trump (2/3 majority votes) he is then removed from office. But again, since the Senate is majority Republican, it is very unlikely he will be removed from office before his term ends. Both political parties are in a deadlock. Both want something, but only one can get what they want. Only the future can tell what will happen to Mr. Trump.

The science behind a meme

By: Eric Ma

It's not a stretch at all to say that memes have taken over the Internet. What happens when the denizens of the Internet find a ridiculous photo? They meme it. A famous person utters a particularly memorable quote? It gets memed. Anything that happens over the Internet, any post, Tweet, or video has the possibility of being memed. However, even something as ridiculous as a meme has its roots in science.

The word “meme” was first coined by Richard Dawkins in 1976 in his book *The Selfish Gene*. The word “meme” comes from the Greek word “mimeme”, which means “something imitated”. At that time, the concept was quite different from the internet memes we know today; that is, the ones shared via social media sites. In Dawkins' theory, memes were similar to genes. Like genes, “memes “reproduce” by

leaping from one mind to another, “mutate” as they are re-interpreted by new humans, and can spread through a population” (Mims).

Memes begin as a person with an idea, and then are spread through the culture via “imitators”: people who copy the meme, which as a result unintentionally spreads it to others. In this manner, anything can be a meme, from folk songs and myths to recipes and language dialects.

To better understand this, consider the common misconception that eating carrots improves vision. This notion was first popularized by the British government during World War II. To fool the enemy Germans, the British claimed that carrots were the reason why British bomber pilots could target their targets with such precision. (It must be noted that this was not completely fictitious. A deficiency of beta-carotene, a pigment found in large amounts in carrots, does in fact cause night blindness, or a reduced ability to see in darkness.) Through parents telling children, teachers telling students, and friends telling friends, the carrot myth eventually became common knowledge.

What, exactly, determines if and when something will go viral? This is impossible to completely pinpoint. However, all memes eventually will experience the same phenomenon: “death.” Their popularity almost always follows the same pattern: relative obscurity, a sudden spike in interest, and then finally a slow but steady decline towards “death,” when the meme loses its relevance. In their brief lives, what do memes accomplish? This varies based on the meme itself and the culture at the time. Memes have led to the ideas of using fire, building tools, and wearing clothes to catch on, but have also spread racism, homophobic ideologies, and dangerous misconceptions. From the very beginning of humans’ existence, what has set us apart from other animals have been our ideas and our ability to communicate. Memes, in essence, have helped us spread information so well within a culture. So the next time you share anything online, you are merely being one of many thousands that are breathing life into a new meme.

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HOLIDAY TALES & TRADITIONS, FAMILY & FESTIVITIES

Fun facts to fill YOUR holidays

By: Shashank Madhu

Did you know that the largest gathering of people wearing holiday sweaters is 3, 473 people? Or that it takes an average of 7 years to grow a Christmas tree? The holiday season is here (or has just past, depending on when you are reading this) and this article is meant to bring you cheer. Join us as we find out the lamest--I mean most interesting facts about holidays!

But first, you have to look at when a lot of these holidays are observed--in December. While there’s no single explanation, many experts agree that December holidays date back to ancient celebrations surrounding the Winter Solstice--which happens in the third week of December--which is the shortest day of the year but also marks a sort of “birth of light”—because every day after the Winter Solstice grows slightly longer for the next six months.

One thing that people can’t get enough of is technology. Did you know that over 25% of emails are sent during the holidays? Or that 67% of consumers have purchased a gift they saw on social media?

Back to shopping, the average American spends about \$800 on holiday shopping. Keep in mind that a Christmas tree is \$83, and you can get 10.95 Christmas trees with \$800, but why would you get 11 Christmas trees?

One thing that always fits with shopping is advertising. Did you know that the origins of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer comes from a store promotion at a department store? And did you know that the modern image of Santa Claus in his red suit actually comes from a 1930's Coca-Cola ad?

To end this great article about holiday fun facts, some of these facts are just straight up weird. Apparently, due to a lack of toilets, some adults wear diapers while ringing in the new year in Times Square!

Did you enjoy this article? For me, that last one was weird, but hey, it's a true fact. Oh well then, have a happy holiday season and a happy new year!

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3, 2, 1, Happy New Year!!!!

By: Zan Malan

The new year is coming up and there are many fun things to do! But, does everyone celebrate New Year's in the same way? Do we all stay up until midnight? Make New Year's resolutions? Watch fireworks? Eat symbolic foods from your family's background? How do students and faculty here at the middle school celebrate New Years Day and Eve? Let's find out.

Mrs. Kaschyk, a seventh grade ELA teacher says, "We do like to go to a friend's house and they have several families come over. They usually pick a theme and encourage everyone to dress in that theme. Last year the theme was the 1980s so there were costumes, music, a photo booth and more in that theme."

Dayana, a seventh grade Wildcat says, "We stay up and watch a bunch of movies until twelve."

Kimora Porter, another seventh Wildcat says, "My cousins come over to my house, we make breakfast, we stay up until midnight, and watch the countdown."

Although these three ideas are really different they still sound super fun! Here are some ideas for this New Year's Eve with your family and friends!

1. Do a New Year's Resolution!!
2. Make fun decorations and party!!!
3. Stay up all night!!!!

And with that said, have a fun New Year and a wonderful break!!!!!!

Crazy-expensive places to visit

By: Divya Nelluri

Over Winter Break, some of the many places that students at Novi Middle School could have gone to include the Hotel De Glace; Lapland, Finland, and the International Ice and Snow Sculpture Contest hosted in Harbin, China.

The Hotel De Glace is an extraordinary hotel in Quebec, Canada completely made of ice. Tourists can spend the entire night sleeping on a bed made of ice and a huge fireplace to keep you warm. They can explore the beautiful Great Hall, ice slide, exhibitions and Ice Bar. In fact, they serve cocktails and other drinks in cups made out of ice!

In Lapland, Finland there is a legendary place-home to the indigenous Laplanders, reindeer and Santa Claus himself. Levi is a resort town that offers dog-sledding, Nordic skiing and late-night trips to view the Northern Lights. A hotel in Levi has a Jacuzzi and a private sauna in every suite. It truly is a cool place to visit!

The Yanqing Ice Festival in Beijing, China was brought to life by the fantastic, rainbow-colored creations in sub-zero temperatures as a grand finale to the Lunar New Year celebrations. The vibrant festival forms a part of the Chinese Lantern Festival. Hundreds of ice sculptures from local and foreign

artists are on display from mid-January until the end of February every year. Festival goers can watch fireworks and performances on the central stage, or enjoy slides and ice skating.

In conclusion, these are only a few of the various places around the world that could be interesting (and expensive) to visit.

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SPORTS, CLUBS, & ACTIVITY

Multiple leagues dominate European soccer scene

By: Tarun Panampully

When we think about popular sports, usually, the first thing that comes to mind is American football, baseball, or basketball. That is true in the United States, but when it comes to the rest of the world, soccer is the leading sport with a fan base of around two billion people! With that being said, Europe in particular is a continent where this sport is extremely popular. The modern version of soccer was created in England, but the origins of this sport can be traced back to ancient China. In addition to this, there are many leagues in Europe where a set of 15-20 teams compete for the title of champion. These leagues are usually separated by countries. The most famous leagues are

- The Premier League (England): This league is the most famous league in the world, it contains many famous teams such as Manchester United, Manchester City, Liverpool, Chelsea, Tottenham Hotspur etc. These teams are regarded as the best, most competitive in the world, with so many strong teams competing for the title. Ever since this league was created in 1992, Manchester United have won the title 13 times, Chelsea 5 times, and Manchester City 4 times.
- The La Liga (Spain): The Spanish league is often known for housing the world's best players such as Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, and more. The Main teams in this league are Barcelona, Real Madrid and Atlético Madrid. This league is home to one of the most watched soccer games in the world. The El Clasico. This is a game between the best two teams in Europe, Barcelona and Real Madrid. With this in mind, La Liga was created in 1927, and since then, Real Madrid have won the title 33 times and Barcelona, 26.

There are many other famous leagues like the French Ligue 1 whose most famous team is Paris Saint Germain (PSG) which has famous players such as Neymar and Mbappe. The Italian Serie A is also really famous, containing teams such as Juventus, and more.

The greatest trophy a club could ever win in Europe is UEFA Champions League. The winner is determined by the top 5 teams in each league competing to win the grand title. The record winners of this tournament are Real Madrid with 13. This is the most heated and watched soccer series other than the World Cup of course.

Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premier_League
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Liga#Performance_by_club

Green and White basketball teams tip-off in all Novi match-up

By: Sanjana Lanka

Usually, you hear the phrase “Green and White,” but Monday, December 16th, it was, “Green vs. White.” That day was the annual Novi versus Novi basketball game. Each grade’s green and white teams played each other.

The seventh grade Green team won by 7. The score was 25-18. For the White team, a total of 6 students scored, including Brendan Felcher and Brendan Lynch.

The eighth grade White team won by 9. The score was 30-21. According to WNMS, Lance Quinn scored a whopping 14 points, along with Dylan Weisoski and Zach Knoll both scored 4 points, along with Alex Smith 3 points, and Rayan Khan, Amrith Mali-Reddy, and Carter Lukas with 2 points each for the White team.

For the Green team, Boden Fernsler with 5 points, Bryce Porter scored 4 points, Jaden Callum and Nolan Thomspson with 3 points each. Adding 2 more points each were Wyatt Sparkman and Kaushik Pulicherla.

When asked what his team did well in the game, a 7th grader on the Green team replied, “ Our team played good defense.” Both winning teams played strong defense, and all four teams made an amazing effort.

NFL playoff excitement begins to build

By: Aaron Zhao

The NFL playoffs has been a must-see event throughout its history. It is a single-elimination tournament that is held to determine which team is the national football champion.

Its history started in 1933. At that point, it was only a championship game. But over time, the playoffs expanded until six teams from each of the two conferences are allowed to compete against each other until there was one champion left for each conference.

The teams to participate in the playoffs is determined by their records in the regular season. The two conferences of the NFL are called the NFC and the AFC. Each conference has four divisions. Each division has four teams. After 17 weeks of competing, the team with the best record in each division will be added to the playoffs. The two best teams by record of the remaining teams are called wild card teams. These teams are not one of the four champions but can come from any division. They will be added to the playoffs so that there are six teams competing in each of the conferences at the end of the season.

“That’s what you work all season for, to get into the playoff games, and you don’t want to blow it,” says former Packers linebacker, Ray Nitschke. The winning teams in each of the conferences will compete against each other in the Super Bowl.

Right now, it is week 15 of the season. Until now, the division leader are: the Ravens, Patriots, Chiefs, and Texans. Currently, the wild card teams are the Bills and the Steelers. These teams are from the AFC. The NFC division leaders are: the Saints, Seahawks, Cowboys, and Packers. The wild card teams are the 49ers and the Vikings. But there are still other teams in the hunt that could make it into the playoffs as the season goes on. Which team will you cheer for?

Sources: <https://en.wikipedia.org/> <https://www.quora.com/>
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ENTERTAINMENT & OPINIONS

Dear Wildcat

By: Sudeshna P. Kumar

Dear Wildcat: As a birthday gift, my parents bought my sister AirPods. I am just two years younger than her, so I feel like I deserve something like it too! Now, my sister wears it all the time and just can’t stop bragging about all the cool features it has and how lucky she is. Sometimes, I even hear her talking about them to her friends over the phone. Honestly, I think this has gone a bit overboard. I don’t want to tell my parents to buy me some...they’ll just say I’m too young. So what can I do to tell my parents that I deserve an expensive gift too?

-Skeptical Sister

Dear Skeptical Sister: I know how you feel. Your parents appreciate you and think that you are a great person-that fact is affirmed. I'm sure they will buy you some expensive gifts later on. Likely, most people at your sister's school probably all have AirPods. Even AirPods have something negative about them. Meanwhile, you can ask for something else, like a new tablet, or a high-tech watch.

Dear Wildcat: One day, me and my best friend were joking around about us not being good at math. Just to be funny, I said something mean, and my friend got angry and stomped away. Honestly, I thought she would take it lightly; I didn't know I was going to hurt her! I already talked to my mom and she said to approach her and say sorry. I don't know how many times I tried that, but every time I went up to her, she saw me and walked away as fast as possible. I even tried writing a letter, but that didn't work either. I really need your help because yesterday, I saw her with a kid who we both didn't like back in elementary school! I'll be really lonely without a friend!

-#ObsessedWithMyBFF

Dear #ObsessedWithMyBFF: Wow, you seem to have quite a problem in your hands! Maybe you should try the letter strategy again. You can drop the letter in your friend's locker with a gift. If that doesn't work out, then maybe you should ask her to come over to your house for a sleepover and apologize when she arrives. Here's some more suggestions: try talking to some of your other friends and ask what they would do or, sit at the table she is sitting at during lunch and talk to her. Lastly, if all the strategies fail, branch out and connect with some other classmates, friends, or old friends that you have lost touch with. I hope your situation improves!

Dear Wildcat: This issue is really getting on my nerves. My mom wants me to sign up for Math Club for me to get better at math. The problem is, I don't want to! Everyday, when I come home from school, my mom pesters me to ask if I have signed up or not, and it's getting really hard to avoid her. They even mention it on WNMS, but I keep forgetting to sign up! And when I remember that I didn't enroll when I get on the bus, I get really anxious. Please help me before I'm in trouble!

-Math_Gets_Lost_In_My_Brain

Dear Math_Gets_Lost_In_My_Brain: I have one piece of advice for you: follow your heart! Go to your mom and tell her that you are not interested to join the club. You can also try to give her a letter or tell your dad about this topic, so he can go tell your mom how you feel. Also, you can try doing extra math on IXL, or strive to get higher math grades, so you can prove to your mom that you don't need to enroll in Math Club. As Robin Williams said, "There are no rules. Just follow your heart."

Adventure, fantasy, and friendship!

By: Nandita Talluri

Many new great movies are coming out in 2020, be sure to check them out!

The Voyage of Dr. Dolittle - January 17, 2020

You have all watched movies featuring Robert Downey Jr., aka. Iron Man, right? He is also the star in a new movie called *The Voyage of Dr. Dolittle*. This movie also features Tom Holland, the actor who plays Spider-Man.

Preview - Dr. John Dolittle lives alone in his lush manor in 19th-century England. His only companions are a group of exotic animals that he speaks to on a daily basis. But when Queen Victoria becomes ill, the doctor and his animal companions go on an epic adventure to a mythical island to find the cure.

Mulan - March 27, 2020

You have probably heard of the movie *Mulan*. Well, at least the animated version. In 2020, producers are coming out with a version of the movie that is not animated. For those who do not know the story behind the movie...

Preview - To save her father from serving in the Imperial Army for a war, Fa Mulan disguises herself as a man to battle northern invaders in China.

Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway - April 3, 2020

From Columbia pictures, we have the sequel to the popular *Peter Rabbit, The Runaway*. Check out the preview below.

Preview - Peter can't seem to break his reputation for mischief among the other rabbits. His adventures bring him out of the garden, and Peter finds himself in a world where mischief is appreciated, but soon his family comes to bring him home.

The One and Only Ivan - August 14, 2020

Some of you may have read the very famous book *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate. Now, there is a movie based on this story coming out in August of 2020.

Preview - Based on the true story of a gorilla and the other animals who share a habitat at a shopping mall, *The One and Only Ivan* is a wonderful tale about the beauty of friendship, the power of the place we call home.

What happened to Skywalker?

By: Prannav Kadhirselman

The Rise of Skywalker, Episode IX, is the final episode of the Star Wars saga, following the *The Force Awakens* (2015) and *The Last Jedi* (2017). A saga is a long story of heroic achievement. The companies that helped make this film were Lucasfilm, Abrams's production company Bad Robot Productions, and Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures.

The Rise of Skywalker had its world premiere in Los Angeles on December 16, 2019, and will be released theatrically on December 20 in the United States. The film has received a lot of mixed reviews. The whole movie is approximately 2 hours and 22 minutes. Apparently, "Baby Yoda" is not in this film.

Rey is now training under Princess Leia, the only sibling of Luke Skywalker. She has become more confident in her power. She still doesn't have the power to resist the Dark Side. She is still linked to Kylo Ren, and their clashes give the film most of its best emotional scenes. Their strange connection has grown stronger; they can duel no matter where they are in the galaxy, and taunt each other with visions of the future that support their own beliefs. And Ridley is terrific, tormented by the idea that it is her destiny to go to the Dark Side and afraid of her own power.

She and Kylo are therefore strangely well matched. Rey is very loyal to her friendships and her cause, but Kylo is very negative and suspicious of everyone. Rey is convinced by Finn that she doesn't have to do everything alone by herself.