

Spartan Voice



Winter 2017

What Do You Do Over Winter Break?



By: London Joy, Stephanie Lohman, & Jessariia Nelson

The *Spartan Voice* writers interviewed some teachers and students to get their views on what they do over winter break. Most teachers said that they are looking forward to seeing their family coming home or just spending quality time with them.

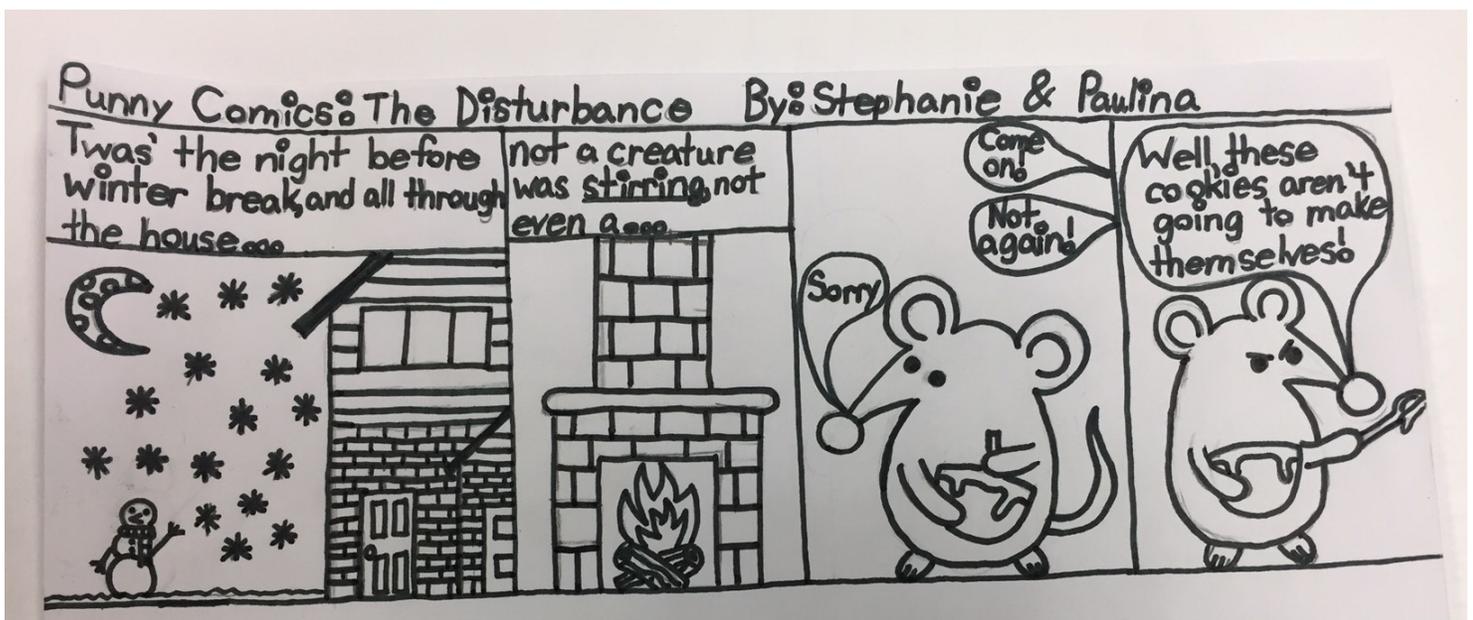
Some teachers also say they catch up on sleep and go shopping during their two weeks off. The students in Miss Hopkins's Writers Workshop club say they sleep, listen, watch Netflix, play guitar, and read because they don't have to anytime to do it during the school year.

The holiday season is a time to relax and care for others along with working on things that you don't usually get the chance to do. However you spend your holiday break, we hope it is an enjoyable and relaxing time!

Enjoy this issue of the *Spartan Voice*!

This is our FIRST issue with SIX FULL PAGES OF CONTENT.

Enjoy!



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Music of the Season

By: Vincent Williamson

November's music is based off Veterans Day, Jimi Hendrix, and The Game. Two patriotic songs for Veterans Day are "Ragged Old Flag" and "Some Gave All". "Ragged Old Flag" was released on April 5, 1974, and it was by Johnny Cash. It describes how a torn-up old flag in an old town got its scars and how everyone in town is proud of it. "Some Gave All" by Billy Ray Cyrus was released in 1992. It was about the great sacrifice many soldiers made for their country and loved ones.

Jimi Hendrix's birthday is on November 27th. Two amazing songs by him are "All Along the Watchtower" and "Castles Made of Sand". "All Along the Watchtower" was released on January 21, 1968. This song is by Bob Dylan, but Hendrix did a cover of it. "Castles Made of Sand" was released on 1967. The song talks about love, acceptance, plans going wrong, and miracles that don't happen.



December's music is based off Christmas, Jay-Z, and Frank Sinatra. Two amazing songs for the Christmas spirit are "Jingle Bells" and "Deck the Halls". "Jingle Bells" was originally by James Pierpont. It was released in 1857, but no month or day was listed. Nos Galan wrote the English lyrics for "Deck the Halls," but it dates back even further to the sixteenth century.

Jay-Z's birthday is on December 4. A couple of memorable songs from him are "Song Cry" and "Young Forever". "Song Cry" was released on the album "The Blueprint" on September 11, 2001. The song is about his schedule bringing the end to some of his long-term relationships and how males are seen to be emotionless, so he makes the song "cry." "Young Forever" was released in September 8, 2009 on "The

Blueprint 3". It talks about living in the moments of our youth and have no regrets through it. Frank Sinatra's birthday is on December 12. Two great songs by him are "Luck be a Lady" and "Fly me to the Moon". "Luck be a Lady" was originally by *Guys and Dolls*, but Frank did a cover of it in 1950. It follows a man who must win a bet to keep the girl of his dreams. "Fly me to the Moon" was released on 1954. It compares love to the astonishment from space and how he feels like he is being flown to the moon when he's in love.



The Game's birthday is on the 29th. Two spectacular songs by him are "My Life" and "Pot of Gold". "My Life" was released on July 22, 2008. It talks about how many of his friends died, but he survived. "Pot of Gold" was released in 2011. The song talks about the dark times many go through, but the end is a pot of gold.

What did Speech Club do at State?

By: Maddy Alford

Brianna Glecier and Delanie Mickiewicz are in speech club. Speech club isn't like the kind where you give out what you say, rather, a competitive sport. They went to state! The girls did an improv duet. According to the girls, "It is easy but you have to be creative." Their topics were, "What should we do today?", "But that's what you said!", and "It was big, it was green, and was headed toward Main Street!"

Matty DeAlba did impromptu speech where she was given two topics, and she had to write a speech and present it. For group improv, she and her friends had to do three stories, which were "Rectangle, Hitch Hiker, and Line. For their group script, they had to present a script. They chose, "The One Where No One is ready," from *Friends*.

F.R.I.E.N.D.S

What'd You Have for Dinner?

By: JR Alvarez

"Candy" ~Mya

"Popcorn" ~Jayla

"Lentils and rice" ~ Julia

"Just corn." ~Samrutha

"Pizza" ~Jack

"Chilli" ~ Ana

"Potatoes" ~ Olivia

"French toast" ~ Mr. Mecher

"Turkey and Sweet Potato" ~ Mrs. Zinsky

"Tri-color pasta" ~Stephanie

"Onion bagel with peanut butter" ~Karys

Shocking Christmas Facts

By: Morgan Mucha

1. Each year, more than 3 billion Christmas cards are shipped in the U.S. alone.
2. Christmas trees have been sold since 1850.
3. Christmas lights were invented in 1882.
4. In June of 1870, Christmas became a federal holiday.
5. Christmas trees used to be decorated with candles.
6. People used to tell scary stories on Christmas Eve.
7. One town in Indiana is called Santa Claus.
8. Santa Claus originated from a newspaper.
9. "Jingle Bells" was originally created for Thanksgiving.
10. Coca-Cola created the first ad using a friendly Santa Claus in 1931.



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ADVENTURES AT FIREWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL



BY: SARAH HUBATCH

Stephen King's *It* book review

By: Armin Salvador

Lately I have been reading the novel *It* from Stephen King. Many of you know both movies, from 1990 and 2017. But, what surprised me is that literally NO ONE knew what the book is.

First off, let me tell you, this book is very BIG. If you compare it to your

textbooks, it is bigger than any of them. That is because the book itself is 1,153 PAGES. Yes that may be a lot of pages, but you can easily get used to it.

Obviously, I'm not done with it yet. But

overall, the book is very good. There may be some moments where I can't talk about here, but if you ever decide to read it, you'll see why. I wouldn't say this book should be in the library, considering what Stephen King writes in his books in general.

Consider reading this book if you enjoyed the movie. And remember, enjoy being spooked!

Dogs or Cats?

Katie E: Hmm, I have both, but CATS!

Morgan M: Dogs!!!

Armin S: Dogs.

Tori L: Doggos, they're so fluffy!

Karys M: Lizards!

Mrs. Zinsky: Dogs!

Julianna N: Cats!

Junior A: Dogs.

Haylie H: Pitbulls, er um, dogs.

Vincent W: Dogssss!

London J: Dogs.

Tarah: Cats.

Jessariia N: Catzzz!



I am Princess X: Book Review

By: Katie Ehman

I am Princess X is one of this Year's Rebecca Caudill nominees, and is an amazing read. You can check it out at the school library or a public library.

Summary: Two friends (Libby and May) created Princess X and made comic strips together. Now Libby

and her mother are killed in a car accident. But May finds lamprincessx.com and finds connections between Libby's past and the comics that hint that Libby is still alive.

Is Libby still alive and is using the website to get May's attention or did some-

one find their old comic strips and start writing their own Princess X comics?

Find out by reading *I Am Princess X!*

Divided: Chapter 1 (A Continuing Story)

By: Julianna Neu

I flew back, hitting my head against the metal fence of the training grounds. "Pyro is out!" yelled the training chef. "Tinder is the winner!" Tinder, a female dragon with a beautiful mane of red fire coming out from the back of her head, smiles widely. Her white teeth shining brightly in the moonlight our tribe has lived under for centuries.

She looked back at me as she exited the fenced area we had been put into to fight. "Smell ya later dorky!" Tinder snickered and went towards one of the generals. I just knew her she was going to be the rudest soldier ever. Just as I was about to make a snarky comment back at her, General Smoke told me he needed to talk to me.

"Pyro," General Smoke sighed, "Why haven't you given up on being a soldier yet?" My stomach dropped. I've heard this line from the other recruits, but never from a general.

"I uhm-" I couldn't even find the right words to say.

"You're from a farming family. You have no rage or will to fight in your blood." My ears were pushing against my scales, I've lived this reality in a nightmare before, but not in real life.

"Wai- No, I'm a grea- I hav-" I couldn't form anything expect fragments of sentences. Farmer. That's all anyone wanted me to be. I tried standing straight to make myself look bigger, but I just shriveled up more and started staring at the ground.

General Smoke sighed. "You know what." He pinch the space between his eyes with his claws. I looked up from the ground, thinking about what he was going to say.

"Was he doing to kick me out? Tell everyone else I was a failure? Banish me for not being good enough?!" I could hear Tinder's laugh circling inside my head along with all the things she had said to me. "I'll give you one more chance." He said, letting go of his snout. Suddenly all the terrible things I thought he was going to say went away and a smile replaced my frown.



"I won't let you down General!" I almost screeched at him.

I ran off to go train before he could even say another word. All I could hear was "Pyro, wait!" How could he expect me to wait after he made heart race and my palms sweat? This was my final chance to prove myself after all.

"I got to make sure I graduate from training and become a soldier," I thought to myself. "I need to prove everyone who said I was just a dumb farming dragon wrong!"

Short Story Corner

IT: The Town Before

By: Armin Salvador

Seven-teen ninety-one, the foundation of a town, a place where a country was just the beginning. New figures came in with such a face, eventually building places where the people will stay in, *forever*, and years later new people would come in and stay in for another few years. That town was Derry, Maine.

But, those years of living in the town for years became a big downfall. A mysterious figure would come, not anyone seeing, and not anyone *knowing*. During those years, we lose people. We lose our loved ones, we lose anyone we ever knew from 1791. Thus, Derry became a deadly place for any citizen to live in.

A child name Laurie Ann was walking along a road. Not knowing anything, not minding anyone, but minding her own business. She was heading home, after one long day, just one ordinary day. What could possibly happen? No. She was not a grown six-teen year old walking by herself, she, was only six years old.

Laurie walked up a porch, her mother waiting for her young daughter, as they were about to have supper.

“Laurie Ann,” her mother called, “come on in! You’re late for supper.”

Laurie walks up on the stairs, but she found one of her favorite dolls, distracting her to come on in. Upon the hanging pieces of cloth, clothing, she sees something that fills her happiness.

There was a clown behind the

clothing, as happy as ever. It looked like one of those circus clowns that anyone has ever seen before. What was he doing there? Why was he there? Perhaps his job was to come and bring all the children around him.

“Hi!” The clowns said, with much glee.

Laurie stares more at the clown. She seems excited to see such a happy little guy. Perhaps she could come and dance and see all sorts of surprises too.

But, the clown. Laurie Ann notices his face has changed. The clown looks so frightening, not as exciting to see anymore, not like a happy man you would see every day. The clown, in other words, looked like he (or a she) wanted to prey.

The clown walks up to Laurie Ann, with her asking herself, “What is he going to do with me?” The clown reveals teeth, not like Laurie’s teeth, sharp teeth.

The clown gets closer, and closer, until he’s right in front of the little girl. He then opens his mouth.

His mother, wondering, “Where is little Laurie?” She goes onto the porch, searching for her. But, she has found something, something bloody, something terrifying, Laurie Ann.

Twenty-seven years later, that same little clown came back, then the next twenty-seven years. Thus, sparked an entity called Pennywise the Dancing Clown, or IT.

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