



Paw Prints

December 2024

Advisor: Mr. Dalesandro



About this Publication

Your monthly access to all things HARRINGTON! For Students. BY Students.

T-1 W.A.T.C.H. Winners Announced

Thomas E. Harrington faculty and staff are proud to announce the W.A.T.C.H. winners for the first trimester. From all of us at HMS and *PawPrints*, CONGRATULATIONS! In order of appearance, your winners are:

By: *PawPrints Staff*

- Allison C., *Leadership*
- Dirithi R., *Work Ethic*
- Catherine H., *Citizenship*
- Taylor B., *Scholarship*
- Kellan B., *Leadership*
- Aiden J., *Citizenship*
- Isla T., *Citizenship*
- Javier N., *Citizenship*
- Augustin T., *Work Ethic*
- Shia L., *Leadership*
- Ava B., *Citizenship*
- Aadya S., *Scholarship*
- William S., *Citizenship*
- Matthew W., *Citizenship*
- Ghala A., *Work Ethic*
- Rishabh B. - *Scholarship*
- Danny S. *Scholarship*



All W.A.T.C.H. winners for the first trimester will be invited to a celebration on Tuesday, December 17.

- Kaden P., *Character*
- Bryan F., *Citizenship*
- Ava M., *Leadership*
- Matthew O., *Work Ethic*
- Samirkhon U., *Scholarship*
- Lydia A., *Work Ethic*
- Olivia C., *Leadership*
- Emma F., *Leadership*
- Natalie B., *Citizenship*
- Will W., *Work Ethic*
- Madison R., *Scholarship*
- Elijah M., *Character*
- Dhanshika S., *Leadership & Citizenship*
- Conan Y., *Scholarship & Leadership*
- Connor H., *Citizenship & Work Ethic*

ON BEHALF OF THE HMS
ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS, AND STAFF,
WE THANK YOU
FOR CONTRIBUTING TO
A POSITIVE COMMUNITY

What is W.A.T.C.H.?

By *PawPrints Staff*

According to the W.A.T.C.H. Recognition Program charter:

"The Harrington W.A.T.C.H. program is designed to highlight, celebrate, and recognize our students when they consistently 'own' their words, actions, thoughts, character, and habits towards others."

These words, of course, echo "The Essence of Destiny." This motivation framework can be seen in classrooms throughout HMS and is recited every Wednesday - affectionately known as "W.A.T.C.H. Wednesday."

Each trimester, the HMS faculty and staff selects FOUR students from each team. The chosen students are selected because they exemplify one (or more) of the following traits: CITIZENSHIP, WORK ETHIC, LEADERSHIP, and SCHOLARSHIP.

Citizenship

Leadership

Work Ethic

Scholarship

Around the Halls

Lenape and the Power of Choice



By Shawn H.

Choice. A quintessential power that, even if we're not aware of it, is given to all of us at birth. Our choices define who we are as individuals and are what set us apart from others.

Current HMS eighth-graders are currently faced with a life-changing choice. On Monday, December 9th, 2024, a small group of educators and staff from Lenape High School offered a presentation to Harrington's 8th-grade students. The theme? Choice.

Students were confronted with what choice is and what choices one should make to benefit both themselves and the future. Seems a little big, doesn't it? Let me break it down:

The presentation, led by Mr. Anthony Cattani (Principal of Lenape), and guided by Reagan Ross, Owen Dickson, Joe Tete, Mr. Emmet, and Ms. Poullon, was intended to inform students about Lenape's wide array of opportunities. With a variety of over 230 classes, over 60 clubs, and 28 athletic teams, it's no secret that Lenape is

willing to run the extra mile for its students.

If that wasn't enough, even after registering, schedules can be modified in order to accommodate any change in student preferences. With such a wide array of options, it's important to know what your preferences are.

You're probably saying, "This is a great promotion for Lenape, but how do they relate to your point - choice?"

While Lenape's offerings are varied, the opportunities they provide suggest something even more important: they promote individuality. As individuals, we can CHOOSE a program that best reflects our personalities, our desires, and our aspirations.

I could go on and on about the variety of amazing opportunities the Lenape offers, but, at the end of the day, it comes down to choice. The choices we make now help shape who we become.

What choices will you make?

HMS Library Challenge

By Natalie B.

Have you heard about the new Harrington Library Challenge? All you have to do is read any book that meets the monthly criteria (or a book on the new bookshelf) and create one Google Slide or bookmark talking about your selection. Once completed, submit your slide or bookmark by the due date to earn a "badge." Collect all SIX badges to be invited to an end-of-year celebration! Be sure to check with Ms. Gallagher or Ms. Fitzpatrick in the library for details and deadlines!

November - A book with a Native American theme/voice or a book from the new bookshelf*

December - A book from the action or adventure shelf or a book from the new bookshelf

January - A book with Arab voices, fantasy, Sci-Fi, or a book from the new bookshelf

February - A book with black voices, historical fiction, or a book from the new bookshelf

March - A book with disabled voices, women's voices, or a book from the new bookshelf

April - A book with Arab voices, a novel in verse, or a book from the new bookshelf

May/June - A book with LGBTQIA+ voices, Jewish voices, Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) voices, sports, or a book from the new bookshelf

Roman Vs. Modern Christmas Traditions



Images:
"Saturnalia"
by Antoine-
Francois
Callet (left);
AI-generated
image of
"The Birth"
(right)



By Nischal V.

similar to the Romans.

Christmas is a popular Christian holiday celebrated worldwide. It celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the son of God in Christian religions. The Romans first celebrated Christmas in Europe around the time of 300 CE, but it was called Saturnalia. Saturnalia was celebrated to honor the Roman god Saturn, but its traditions were later adopted for Christmas when the Romans converted to Christianity. Roman traditions in celebrating the holiday share many similarities with modern traditions.

Similarities:

Some similarities between Roman and modern Christmas traditions include giving gifts to friends and family, playing games, eating a lot of food, and decorating. In Roman times, people would sing songs while walking on the streets, similar to door-to-door Christmas carols today. Both times brought lots of joy to the atmosphere, and everybody had fun, even Roman slaves. Both modern and ancient traditions allowed for laborers and governing bodies to have time off from work. As you can see, some of our traditions are

Differences:

One major difference in the celebration of Christmas is the modern inclusion of Santa Claus. During the first Roman celebrations, the holiday did not include the figure of Santa Claus. Today, many Christian households center the holiday on Santa Claus as a saint and the bringer of gifts!

In Roman times, they decorated their houses with wreaths and evergreen plants. While these are still popular winter emblems, many households, regardless of religion, decorate with rainbow lights and snowmen.

Another major difference between the two societies is that the Romans had public gatherings where they would offer sacrifices and eat together. Also, Roman celebrants wore cone-shaped hats named Pillai, while we wear Santa hats. The Romans would hold gladiator fights, and the dead would be offered as sacrifices, which isn't legal today.

So, as the Romans once said, "Io Saturnalia!" In other words, "Merry Christmas."

Around the Halls, Too

What is happening, Harrington? 'Around the Halls' wants to know! Reach out to one of our reporters with events and happenings.

Kirby's Winter Check In Corner



By: Shawn H

Welcome!

Winter. A time of low temperatures, memories from seasons gone by, and, most importantly, *desires*. Sometimes, people can get so wrapped up in what they don't have that they forget what they do have. For moments like these, you are welcome to use the space below to check in with yourself:

How are you feeling right now?

Why are you feeling that way?

Name one thing that you have for which you are grateful.

Stop, take a deep breath in. Then take a deep breath out, and read these words:

I am unique.
I am important.
I am a good person.
I can do anything.

Once again, you can use this space anytime you're feeling lost, out of touch, or just want to jot down your feelings. You've got this!



ABOVE: HMS students and staff collected a whopping 490 boxes and bags of instant mashed potatoes - proving *ONCE AGAIN* that we are passionate about providing people with potatoes!

Right: HMS Student Council is collecting for Toys for Tots. You can see signs and donation bins throughout the building. Donations were collected through December 13. Check back in the next edition for donation totals!



Above: Ms. Mangla meets with current NJHS members as they plan for the upcoming induction ceremony. **Below:** Ms. Langford reviews ceremony procedures for upcoming inductees. The NJHS induction ceremony is planned for Monday, December 16.



Above: Several HMS faculty and staff pose for the camera as they don their best cow-folk duds for "Rootin' Tootin' Tuesday."

Opinions & Editorials



Artificial Flavor: AI in Advertising?

By Shawn H.

You better watch out, you better not cry, you better not pout; I'm telling you why - Santa Claus is coming to town... or is he?

As it turns out, the version of Saint Nick most commonly associated with the holiday season today was made popular, in part, by Coca-Cola (yes, the soda brand). The classic depiction of the jolly man graced various newspaper ads, various scenes, and, of course, a thirsty Santa chugging down a bottle of the drink.

It's undeniable that Coca-Cola influenced the holidays as we know it; their commercials have become synonymous with the holidays. So, what would happen if Jolly Ol' St. Nick suddenly disappeared from the anticipated winter ads? Well, that's exactly what Coca-Cola did with this season's advertising blitz! Confused? Let me explain:

A network of snowy pines appears. This is separated by a pristine mountain range before transforming into an icy, unforgiving tundra. A deer appears in a forest clearing, hypnotized by a bright light. Meanwhile, in the tundra, a polar bear looks up from the icy cold waters to gaze at the very same sight before taking another plunge. An engine revs. Pan to a small fleet of red Coca-Cola trucks driving past a tree with a particular sense of style. Next thing you know, they're driving on a newly-salted road and under a glowing tunnel.

Another holiday commercial? Maybe.

There's one thing that sets this ad apart from all the others: it was made using artificial intelligence (AI).

Earlier this year, the Coca-Cola Company decided to replace their typical holiday ads with those that were generated entirely by AI. No actors. No retakes. Straight from point A to B (way faster and cheaper too). As it turns out, the aforementioned ad was just one of a few new creations by Coke's advertising team. A few others included puffins, raccoons, monkeys, hot air balloons, and, of course, Santa (albeit on the side of a truck). All of the ads were torn apart by the media: *Forbes* called it "Uncanny," and so, too, did the *New York Times*. Ouch.

The holidays have been an important part of Coca-Cola's branding for decades, and many believe that they're ruining the holiday spirit by releasing AI-generated commercials. However, the truth is a lot more complicated than that. Coca-Cola has experimented with AI in the past, and they believe that it can be an important tool to promote their brand.

According to Chris Barker from Silverside AI, an AI-generation studio, Coke asked three studios (Silverside, Secret Level, and The Wild Card) to create new takes on their classic "Holidays are Coming" ad from 1995. It can be thought of as lazy or cheap to use robots in place of human artists and graphic designers, but, at the end of the day, it all comes down to the effect on the consumer.

What do YOU think about the use of AI in the creative process?



Should Some Books be Restricted for Students?

By Natalie B.

This is an age-old debate. Many people feel certain literature is inappropriate for publication. When a book is challenged it means that there is an attempt to remove it from shelves and/or restrict its accessibility. These objections are usually raised by a person or a group that find fault with the material or topics found within the literature.

A significant portion of books that get challenged are those that are available to school-aged children. The books that tend to be challenged are deemed "unfit" for students. The following are ten books that are challenged most frequently. Additionally, I have included why and where they are being banned.

Gender Queer: A Memoir, by Maia Kobabe
~Banned for LGBTQIA+ content
~Challenged 106 times
~Banned in 56 school districts
~Banned in Alaska, Iowa,

Texas, and Pennsylvania

All Boys Aren't Blue, by George M. Johnson
~Banned for LGBTQIA+ content
~Challenged 82 times
~Banned in 29 school districts

This Book is Gay, by Juno Dawson
~Banned for LGBTQIA+ content,
~Challenged 71 times
~Banned in 49 school districts

The Perks of Being a Wallflower, by Stephen Chbosky
~Banned for LGBTQIA+ content, and profanity
~Challenged 68 times
~Banned in 36 school districts

Flamer, by Mike Cuartro
~Banned for LGBTQIA+ and explicit content
~Challenged 67 times
~Banned in 34 school districts

The Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison
~Banned for Inappropriate (but true) themes, and
~Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) content
~Challenged 62 times

***NOTE BEFORE READING:** While these selections are rated for teens & young adults, some may find the subject matter objectionable.

~Banned in 32 school districts

Me and Earl and The Dying Girl, by Jesse Andrews
~Banned for claimed sexually explicit material and profanity
~Challenged 56 times
~Banned 29 times in school districts

Tricks, by Ellen Hopkins
~Drugs, Inappropriate themes, and LGBTQIA+ content
~Challenged 56 times
~Banned 28 times in school districts

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, by Sherman Alexie
~Banned for violence, sexual content, and language
~Challenged 55 times
~Banned 22 times in school districts

Sold, by Patricia McCormick
~Banned for inappropriate and claimed explicit content
~Challenged 53 times
~Banned 19 times in school districts

SPORTS



Check back in the next edition for
Harrington Sports Standings!

Philly Sports Update

By Lela C.

Sixers

The Sixers started this season off on a rough note. At the time of this article, they have a 5-15 record following a loss to the Orlando Magic. They also currently are 14th in the eastern conference out of 15 teams. They currently have a 0.25 winning percentage this season. That means that the 18-4 Celtics would have to lose their next 50 games to slip that number.

Tickets to see The Sixers play recently fell to \$2.00 following their performance this season. The main reason for this is their growing list of injured players. Embiid has only played 4 out of 20 games this season. In brighter news, Jared McCain has been named the East Kia NBA Rookie of the Month! He has had a rookie of the year performance and is currently in the lead for winning it.

Eagles

The Eagles are currently on an eight-game winning streak, and they are first in the NFC East. The Eagles have not lost a game since September 29th! Their current record is 10-2. Saquon Barkley is having an MVP season and is currently in the race! Brandon Graham recently tore his triceps and will be out for the rest of the season. His plans were to retire at the end

of this season, but now people are wondering, because of the injury, will he be back for a final show?

The Eagles defense has been incredible this season and is currently ranked as the best in the NFL. This season has been a record breaking one this year and it's still not over!

Phillies

Alec Bohm is nearing his final days with the Phillies. At the time of this article, the Seattle Mariners were the top team to get him for next season. Nick Castellanos and Ranger Suarez have also been in trade talks this season. The Phillies were one of the teams projected to get four-time all-star Juan Soto, but lost the bid to the New York Mets.

Flyers

The Flyers currently have a 12-10-3 record and are 5th in the Metropolitan Division. The highest rated players for the Philadelphia Flyers are Travis Konecny, Owen Tippett, and Travis Sanheim. Flyers rookie, Matvei Michkov has been amazing for the Flyers this season and he even has three overtime winners just in 23 games! He is tied with Oilers Leon Draisaitl for most overtime winners this season! Even though Michkov is only 20 years old, he has had an amazing season so far.

NBA Standings: Highs and Lows

By Aayush S.

So far, the 2024-2025 basketball season has been interesting and fun to watch. It has been PACKED with many twists and turns and surprising moments! The following is a breakdown of the top and bottom teams in the NBA this season.*

Top 5 Teams

Cleveland Cavaliers

The Cavs have been the most dominant team this season with a current record of 21-3 which is exponentially better than last year. Some of their best players are Donovan Mitchell (who averages 24.5 ppg), Darius Garland, and Evan Mobley. Mobley is a great defender and just set a career high of 41 points against the Charlotte Hornets.

Boston Celtics

The Boston Celtics have been consistently one of the best teams in the league and just came off winning the finals last season. They have a current record of 19-4. All of the Celtics players are phenomenal, but their very best players are Jason Tatum and Jaylen Brown.

Oklahoma City Thunder.

OKC has been an amazing team with a record of 17-5. Their best player is the Canadian point guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander. Gilgeous-Alexander has an insane ppg of 29.8. He is carrying OKC with this remarkable performance.

Houston Rockets

The Rockets are doing much better than last year with an impressive 15-8 record. Their best players are Jalen Green and Alperen Sengun.

Dallas Mavericks

The Mavericks are also doing well this year. They currently they have the same 15-8 record

as the Rockets, and they are both the top teams in the Southwest Division. Their best players are Luka Dončić and Kyrie Irving.

And now for the bottom five teams. These teams need to greatly step up their game if they want to make the playoffs.

The Bottom Five:

New Orleans Pelicans

The Pelicans have a disappointing record of 5-18. The Pelicans' best player Zion Williamson is hurt - which has had a major impact on the team. He is due to come back in four-to-six weeks, so the Pelicans still have a chance to redeem themselves.

Utah Jazz

The Utah Jazz has a record of 5-17. John Collins, Collin Sexton, and Jordan Clarkson might be traded in order to help the Jazz.

Charlotte Hornets

The Hornets are having a bad season with a record of 6-17. A reason for their losing season might be attributed to the fact that many of their players are injured. This includes their best player Lamelo Ball.

Philadelphia 76ers

Our very own 76ers are having major difficulties with a 6-15. This is especially surprising as they made the playoffs just last year. Joel Embiid is injured again. Without the 76ers star player, they're struggling to win.

Washington Wizards

The Wizards are the worst NBA team this season by far. They have just 2 wins and 18 losses. They hold the "honor" of being the team with the worst start of a season in franchise history with their 16-loss streak. They have many players on the injured list, which is just one of the many reasons they are trailing.