

HAPPENINGS

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Seniors set goals for the new year

Paiton Albrecht - 12

Hamburg Area High School Seniors are about to celebrate their fourth and final new year in high school. This is a big year for them because 2020 will bring lots of change. Seniors have a lot to say about their graduation year and what they are most excited to focus on in the coming year.

Abigail Behm is most worried about at this point getting into her dream school Ursinus debt free. "Once I handle my school situation I can focus on my Germany trip." Abby, who is president of German Club and part of the school trip to Germany, will be living in Germany for 14 days and attending Gymnasium (a German high school).

A popular theme among the Seniors is graduation. Jacob Phillips says, "It will be nice to learn from new teachers and learn in a different environment."

Colby Gromlich says he is looking forward to watching Seely grow up also is hoping to attend Millersville University.

It is pretty solid to confirm that graduation, college and dogs is what are on Senior minds going into 2020. There are great things in store for the Class of 2020. The new year looks promising for these young adults.



Concussions are not something to be taken lightly

Alexandra Kline - 12

A concussion is a brain injury caused by an impact to the head or violent shake of the head and body, like whiplash. A concussion is not usually fatal, but the effects can be very serious. Effects of a concussion include light sensitivity, dizziness, vomiting, sleepiness, loss of coordination, slowed reaction, and frequent headaches.

If one were to hit his head or go through a traumatic event and immediately get a headache from the event, it would be wise to see a local doctor immediately for a proper diagnosis. Treatments for concussions include low lights, staying off of the electronics for as much as possible, rest, no strenuous activities like sports, and take painkillers such as Advil or Tylenol.

For those with serious symptoms, a doctor may make the patient take an MRI or CT scan of the brain to see inside for a serious injury, such as a brain bleed. It is also important that when recovering from a concussion to be careful to not get a second before the first one healing, called second impact syndrome. This may cause an increase in chances of getting brain swelling or bleeding.

With concussions, there is no guarantee that it will heal quickly. Concussions heal, on average, about two to three weeks, but that is not certain. Alexandria Baum, a junior at Hamburg Area High School, has had a total of five concussions. The worst of them was the first one due to being unable to be awoken by her parents one morning. Each of her concussions was caused by being hit in the head. Due to these concussions, she has a 504 plan in school, cannot attend a gym class, and cannot participate in sports anymore because of the high chances of her getting another concussion. "It has been bittersweet for me," Baum admits, "as I was able to make many more connections by getting involved in the music program and the drama club. I've had to adapt to my circumstances in order to live a life that I am proud of and make the most out of a bad situation."

For athletes, receiving a concussion will put a stop to all athletic participation. The athlete may still attend practice and events, but the athlete will not be able to play. When coming back, they will also have to complete the concussion protocol with their athletic trainer before returning fully to their sport. The protocol is five days of activities done with the trainer to ensure that the athlete can participate without head pains or other concussion related symptoms. If they pass, the athlete should still be careful when returning to the sport and gradually do more and more.

When preventing a concussion, wearing safety gear during sports is vital as well as watching the environment to not get hit in the head.

For more information about concussions, visit <https://www.healthline.com/health/concussion> and learn more to prevent a brain injury.



NOAH
Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health



Faith Guers attends BCTC for Sports Medicine and Rehabilitative Medicine

Quinn Holl - 12

Faith Guers, a senior at Hamburg Area High School, is taking advantage of BCTC's Sports Medicine and Rehabilitative Therapy program to achieve her future goal of becoming an Occupational Therapist.

A typical day for Guers kicks off with a 30-45 minute theory or lesson on a variety of topics, such as strength training, nutrition, anatomy and physiology, and so much more. After the lesson, students do book work or practice hands on skills based upon new information. Students can practice these skills for a practical exam, which is a test that assesses a student's hand on skills. Once the students have completed their work, they can use their free time to exercise on the equipment or study for upcoming exams.

Currently, Guers is in the process of completing a Personal Training Certification as well as a Physical Therapist Technician Certification. Additionally, Guers participates in Future Health Professions (HOSA), a student organization where Guers has the opportunity to compete in different events to earn scholarships. One of the competitions is based on Leadership, which Guers has already displayed at BCTC, as she is a mentor for first year students.

Aside from succeeding at BCTC, Guers is well-aware that her program at BCTC will also help her to succeed in the future.

"BCTC provides me with the opportunity to receive two certifications. These certifications can help me work through college and give me more experience when I want to find a real job."

Guers, who started the program sophomore year, sought to hone her skills in high school, rather than wait until college.

"I decided to attend BCTC because I thought it would be a good way to learn about what I wanted to do. I also wanted to learn about things I was actually going to need in my life."

For students who are thinking about participating in BCTC's many programs, Guers believes it is a great opportunity for students who wish to have a step ahead of other individuals pursuing the same career or field.

"I think BCTC is a great place for students to go. It gives hands-on-experience that helps students learn if they really want to be a part of the field. Also, it gives the students a leg up after they graduate, not only with the skills you retain, but the people you meet and the connections you make. At BCTC, you meet so many great friends that you would have never met if you wouldn't have gone."

Students who are interested in joining BCTC can see Mrs. Benz in the library to discuss the next step!

Student Spotlight: Michael McNally

Aaron Kurtz - 10

Michael McNally is a sophomore and a part of Soccer and Spanish club at Hamburg. "My favorite part about Hamburg is the teachers, they're all so kind to me personally."

"My year so far is going as expected, I'm getting good grades, and I'm having as much fun as I did last year. If not more!" he said. "I believe Hamburg is a great place to live and learn. This town has a great environment and lots of interesting places to." To which he mentions Piz-za Como, The Movie Theatre, and other places to eat or hangout at in Hamburg.

Michael recommends the World Cultural Geography elective. "In this elective you learn about religion and geography and having it with Mr. Kline makes it even more fun. I definitely recommend people to give it a go."

Since Michael is a part of soccer which he has been playing for 8 years, he had a busy soccer season. "I thought soccer season was a fun experience, it was fun interacting with the freshmen again. But it was also great playing with the people I played with last season. I will miss our seniors for sure, but now we'll have an entirely different team to deal with next season which will be very interesting."

Michael plays soccer is a part of Spanish club and recommends people to go out for World Cultural Geography. So far, he is loving his sophomore year and thinks Hamburg is in fact a great place to live and learn.



Kommen Sie mit?

Abigail Behm - 12

The question from German three and German four students of Hamburg Area High School is 'Kommen Sie mit?' This translates from German to 'Are you coming with us?' and perfectly summarizes the pioneering attitude of the determined teachers and students to forge ahead in new and uncharted territory. Last year, a small exchange was enacted with nine students and two teachers from a partner school in Germany. This year, a full exchange is taking place,



with around 14 German students staying here in Hamburg Area and 11 Hamburg students staying in Germany for just under two weeks.

Spearheaded by Mrs. McCarthy-Wright and Mrs. Stevens, Hamburg's participation in the GAPP program is taking flight. "It is great that the German government supports [exchanges] like this," Mrs. McCarthy-Wright states. The critical element is that of not only an exchange of students, but an exchange of cultures. In spending nearly two weeks in another country with a trusted family, each student, German or American, experiences total cultural immersion. This immersion is often crucial to the development of the studied language, and is therefore a real-life application of education in addition to being a fantastic experience.

Mrs. McCarthy-Wright emphasizes that "it is always important to see the bigger picture." In completing an exchange, both students and teachers are able to gain a wealth of new experiences from which to draw. Instead of looking at a map and having an abstract understanding of the German nation, connections can be drawn to certain areas, certain experiences. The people are no longer a separate and distant concept, but a living, breathing society which was experiences. Mrs. McCarthy-Wright adds that "if you look at a map, it's all within reach." Whether that be with the help of a government program such as GAPP or personal funds, travel is possible, and the reason maps exist is to guide and label unknown places. The students of the GAPP program are using their maps. The only question now is 'Kommen Sie mit?'

Katy Perry reinvents her sound

Grant Doklan - 11

Katherine Elizabeth Hudson, otherwise known as Katy Perry is most known for her chart topping album Teenage Dream released all the way back in 2010. The album spawned five number one singles, including California Gurls, Teenage Dream, E.T. and Last Friday Night and would go on to be one of the most awarded pop albums of all time. Needless to say, Katy Perry was a large force in pop music throughout the early 2010s.

Her next album Prism would be released in 2013 and featured prominent singles Roar, Birthday and Dark Horse. The album was ultimately similar to Teenage Dream, continuing success for Perry. Public opinion would shift against Perry coming into 2017 when her fifth studio album Witness was released. While singles like Chained to the Rhythm and Bon Appetit performed well, the album was panned by critics. Perry claimed the album to be politically conscious, but critics believed it was nothing more than a shallow break up record.

Finally, in 2019 Perry is making a strong comeback. The first of three songs released this year is titled Never Really Over and was received well by fans and critics alike. The accompanying music video amassed 17.7 million views in just one day and currently has over 100 million views. The following singles Small Talk and Harleys in Hawaii were less impactful than their predecessor, but Perry returns to her classic bright pop roots.

Ayla Dimalanta is a Katy Perry fan and loves the new direction of her music. She especially loves the bright colors of the Small Talk video. Perry's dog Nugget features in the video, which makes Ayla love it even more.

To visit Katy Perry's official website, click here <https://www.katyperry.com/>



Student Spotlight: Brett Claytor

Domanick Ernst - 10

Bret Claytor is a 15-year-old Sophomore at Hamburg Area High School. He has been at Hamburg since kindergarten. BCTC and golf are what Bret attends at Hamburg. Bret attends BCTC for automotive collision. The favorite part of Hamburg for Bret are the teachers who make his day enjoyable. The hardest class that Bret is taking is geometry class because he was never really good at math. He can understand the content given to him in school.

Bret's future is to go to a good college to one day become a wildlife biologist. He recommends taking Mr. King's Engineering classes as well as Mr. Yoder's wood technology classes. He currently takes no Electives because of him being in BCTC.



Black Friday Makes History

Lauren Atkins - 9

Many people know a certain day called Black Friday; this day is the Friday directly after Thanksgiving. This day is so huge to many Americans because almost every store has deals that lure people in, and it is a designated shopping day. Before Black Friday even received its name, this Friday was always purposed to be a shopping day. In the 1950's, people would call off of work the night of Thanksgiving to get a four day weekend. This eventually lead to people going shopping on this Friday and later got its name of Black Friday. The reason it was named Black Friday is because black signifies profit, whereas, red signifies loss in the accounting world.

From the past to the present, Black Friday has been the biggest shopping day along with cyber Monday. Cyber Monday began more recently in 2005 due to advances in technology and advertising. Cyber Monday is the biggest online shopping day. Due to Black Friday and Cyber Monday hugging the same weekend, this span of days are the maker of the largest sales of the year.

With the newest uprising generations, tech savviness and spending more money is much more likely to occur as through more recent years, more money is being spent on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. However, this year was the year to make history with online purchases.

Sales were up by approximately 4% compared to what they were a year ago. The total amount of money spent on Black Friday was \$7.4 billion through online sales. On Thanksgiving day, a total of \$4.2 billion online sales were purchased. This leads to a total of \$11.6 billion dollars spent in America for two days on online purchases. This beats out any Black Friday record.

Each generation, such as the one currently attending Hamburg Area High School, is affecting these statistics day by day. Hamburg students are apart of the 80% of young people that impulsively buy on Black Friday and contribute to the \$11.6 billion dollars spent online. Our society is currently approached by the appeal of each person and students may also be influenced to take advantage of Black Friday sales to buy more appealing or "trendy" items. 2

As technology continues to advance and more of the world is at the fingertips of many, this record can be thoroughly broken in years to come. More people are staying at home and shopping on their laptops and phones to go out to a store and buy items. While this record will eventually be broken, it is quite exemplary.



The next generation of Pokémon arrives

Kristen Martinez - 10

The newest generation of the widely popular Japanese role-playing game series, Pokémon, has come out, to the delight of fans across the world. After the announcement in February 2019, Pokémon Sword and Pokémon Shield are finally out on the Nintendo Switch.

The Pokémon game series' popularity around the world started with its initial international release of Pokémon Red and Blue in 1996. Since then there have been seven generations, with many spin off titles occurring between the main generation releases. These included Pokémon Let's Go Eevee! and Pokémon Let's Go Pikachu! in November 2018.

The teams behind Pokémon Sword and

Shield were lead by Shigeru Ohmori, who has been on the team for more than 20 Pokémon game to date. He began his work as a game designer and map designer for Pokémon Ruby and Sapphire in 2002, and continued since then.

Pokémon Sword and Shield moved back into the normal game style associated with Pokémon after the departure to motion controls. Taking place in the Galar region, which was based on Great Britain, the story circulates around the protagonist becoming the Pokémon League Champion. This new addition to the series also includes a large open world with free movement and overworld Pokémon. Not every Pokémon from the previous games are included, but there are many new varieties to see and capture throughout the game.

This new generation also includes many forms of co-op play and on-line multiplayer, where players can participate in raid battles with others. They can also easily add players with other joycons for local wireless play.

For more information, visit: https://nintendo.fandom.com/wiki/Pok%C3%A9mon_Sword_and_Shield

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Ride a magic carpet to theaters and see *Aladdin*

Emily Smith - 9

Within the past few years, Disney has reinvented some old-time classic animated films into versions with real people, *Cinderella*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The Jungle Book* to name a few. In spirit of these revivals, Disney decided to kick the 1992 animated film *Aladdin* up a notch and add it to the list. With Will Smith as the Genie, Naomi Scott as Jasmine, and Mena Massoud as Aladdin, it was sure to appeal to any viewer, whether they prefer comedy, romance, or adventure. Disney made sure to keep some of the classic aspects of the movie alive as well, including the songs “Friend Like Me” and “A Whole New World”. Disney fans old and new will want to see this new work of art.

Aladdin, the community thief, is looking for a real friend, someone other than a monkey. With his untrustworthy reputation, it seems as though his pursuit for a new friend is nothing but hopeless, until he meets the undercover princess, Jasmine, in the marketplace. When Jasmine tries to commit a *Robin Hood*-like deed and is caught by a cart-owner, Aladdin is the first to step up and lend a hand. After his heroic duty, he brings Jasmine to safety and quickly is falling for her. How can he become her wife if he is just a poor commoner? With the help of his new friend, the Genie, he will do anything and everything to make his ultimate wish come true.

I have to admit, I was a little weary before viewing this, as I had no clue what the storyline was about. However, after watching, I realized that prior knowledge was not necessary. I did not find myself confused at any point, because the events that took place made sense in the end, even to a person who thought that Aladdin was the Genie before watching. The movie kept me guessing the whole time as to what was going to happen next, which I believe is a quality that only exceptional movies can share. The storyline itself was outstanding, with the creativity and cultural aspects intertwining to form a truly worthwhile movie. Adding in the special effects to the Genie, magic carpet, and other characters truly made the movie feel magical. I would recommend this movie to anyone who was looking for something new and different to watch.

Eldest; a story of patience and growth

Clarissa Dimovitz - 9

After the previous success of *Eragon*, the best selling writer Christopher Paolini continues the breathtaking story with *Eldest*, a story of patience, love, and growth. Eragon and Saphira had recently saved the rebel state from destruction against the mighty force of the evil King Galbatorix. Now, Eragon must travel to the land of the elves, Ellesmera, for further training in magic and swordsmanship. He goes along the journey of a lifetime, filled with awe-inspiring places and new people with each day being a fresh adventure. There is chaos and betrayal plaguing him around every turn, and Eragon is starting to lose the people he can trust. Meanwhile, his cousin Roran is fighting his own battle in Carvahall, and it is



a fight that puts Eragon in even more danger.

Eragon, in this book, faces the hardships and responsibilities of being a Dragon Rider, learning soon that he cannot be careless with his magic. Most high school students are quickly learning the importance of responsibility, and it is a lesson that is revisited again and again throughout this book. I can relate to Eragon when he is starting to learn the responsibility of what he was given; the honor of being a dragon rider. Throughout the year, I have been learning to be more responsible than I was in middle school. I can relate to the struggles Eragon has when learning how to control and be responsible for his powers because I had the same struggles when coming to the high school and learning soon enough I would have more responsibilities. The style of writing Paolini uses captivates the reader and drags them into the world he created using great imagery and interesting words to describe objects. The whole theme of this part of the larger story of Eragon is to learn from mistakes and grow from them to become a wiser person. Mistakes are a part of life, and no matter how hard people try, they cannot avoid them. No one can. What separates a wise person from a close-minded one is how they react. Eragon throughout the book continues to learn from his mistakes, making him a better person.

I would absolutely re-read this book and would recommend this to anyone with a love to learn new and interesting words and loves fantasy with mythical beings and places. The book is the second part in a series called *The Inheritance Cycle*, and was released in 2005. The book was extremely successful, and pushed Paolini to make the third part to the series, *Brisingr*. All of these books are a great way to explore the world of fantasy and mythical beasts. Join Eragon and Saphira on their wild journey to become true Dragon Riders.

CD Review - Nirvana: In Utero

Aaron Kurtz - 10

In Utero is Nirvana's final album. In Utero means “In the womb.” Kurt Cobain, the lead singer, had a fascination with things that grossed him out and childbirth was one of those things. The album was produced by Steve Albini who produced other underground rock albums.



The band's second album *Nevermind* was a huge success and is what really made these guys huge. The album passed Michael Jackson's *Dangerous* in 1991 and was number one. Although it was a huge success, Cobain came out and said the album was over produced and wasn't raw enough for his liking. With *In Utero* he tried to create a harder and more raw grunge rock sound.

The album starts with the track ‘*Serve the Servants*’ and has a total of 11 other songs. Personally, my favorite song on the album is either ‘*Milk It*’ or ‘*Frances Farmer Will Have Her Revenge on Seattle*’ or ‘*Tourettes*’.

Nirvana was a band who liked to stir up controversy and liked to pull people's leg. Cobain wrote a song called ‘*Rape Me*’ which is the fourth track on *In Utero*. Many people found this song

offensive, but its an anti-rape song. The band were big on standing up for women's rights.

Overall, I would give the album a 9.5/10. Personally, I think its better than ‘*Nevermind*’ and I say its their best. Its sad that Cobain passed away in 1994. The band only lasted from 1987-1994 with only third studio albums. Although the band did not really become a band until 1990 when Dave Grohl, their 6th drummer, joined and stayed with them until the end. Would have been nice to see what other music they would've came out with.



All Night provides a binge worthy comedy

Kristen Martinez - 10

All Night is a comedy mini-series that focuses on a group of high school students who are locked into an all night graduation party. This party is held at their high school, with their principal and the gym teacher watching over the students, trying to keep them out of trouble. Once they enter for the night, their phones are taken from them and they cannot leave until the following morning, so they have to occupy their time with one another. With only ten episodes, this show can easily be watched in a short period of time.

Each of the newly graduated high school students has his or her own agenda, and see this night as their final opportunity to do something special while they are still in their high school. Some look for love, others attempt to use this night as an opportunity to solidify their friendships, while others find ways to make money for college. Those watching can most likely find at least one character they connect to in some way, as all of these former high school students go through ups and downs throughout their night with one another.

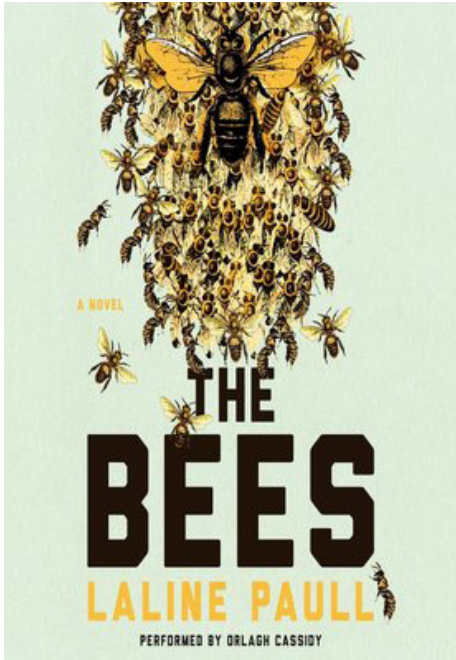
This was the second show written and produced by Jason Ubaldi, who also created the *Youth and Consequences* series on YouTube Red. He recently created the Snap Original series, *Denton's Death Date*.

This show originally premiered on May 11, 2018, and is available to watch on Amazon Prime Video or Hulu.

For more information, visit: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7292950/>

Friday January 17th
Early Dismissal
Monday January 20th
No School

Adviser: Miss Terri McCarthy; Editors in Chief: Quinn Holl and Alexandra Kline; Issue Layout Editor: Sam Gingrich; Writers: Paiton Albrecht, Lauren Atkins, Abigail Behm, Keira Conrad, Megan DeAngelo, Leah Delrosario, Clarissa Dimovitz, Grant Doklan, McKenna Ecker, Tabitha Engel,, Domanick Ernst, Samantha Gingrich, Alexandra Kline, Aaron Kurtz, Amanda McLaughlin, Kristen Martinez, Ashley Perlaki, Victoria Rhoades, Lauren Shebby, Emily Smith *Hawk Happenings* is a weekly publication created by the students in the Publications class at Hamburg Area High School. It is distributed free of charge throughout the Hamburg Area High School community. The opinions in this newspaper represent those of the student writers and do not represent the opinions of the faculty, staff, administration, or school board of the Hamburg Area School District. We are a member of the Pennsylvania School Press Association (PSPA), the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA), and Quill and Scroll. If you have any questions or comments regarding anything that appears in its pages, or if you would like to sponsor our paper with a donation, please contact Miss Terri McCarthy, *Hawk Happenings*, Hamburg Area High School, Windsor Street, Hamburg, PA, 19526. Our email address is termcc@hasdhawks.org and our phone number is 610-562-3861, x2327.



Laline Paull’s book, *The Bees*, sparks question among young readers

Keira Conrad - 9

Though published in early 2014, Laline Paull’s novel, *The Bees*, continues to grab the attention of many readers with its striking cover and incredibly simplistic title. Her dystopian fiction novel, unsurprisingly enough, is about bees - though she uses her descriptive words to further divulge into the magnificent world of these tiny creatures that

many have come to dislike. The book itself centers around one bee, however - that bee being Flora 717, a member of the lowest class of bees; a simple, dirty, unkindly regarded sanitation worker. Throughout the entire work, Flora is seen as an incredibly unattractive being, and even though she may not be beautiful by bee standards, she has the undeniable ability to spark curiosity in all who lay eyes upon her.

Flora, though she is a member of the sanitation class, is far more capable than her brethren. While none in her class have the ability to speak, Flora comes alive with chatter, surprising all who first discovered her. Eventually, this variation, though thought as a mutation to a majority of the upper classes, leads her to serve in the hive’s nursery - an unthinkable thing to all bees of her hive. Regardless, Flora continues this line of work until she is brought to fulfill many, many other jobs, which are only the start of her long, suspenseful journey. The young bee stands to question the hive’s motto of ‘Accept, Obey, Serve’, as she eventually goes on to fulfill the ultimate taboo of bee society and think for herself - breaking the predetermined ideas that each bee has for their future.

This decade’s trends make huge changes to the fashion world

Megan DeAngelo - 12

The end of the decade is upon us, and with that, a whole series of trends and fashions that may hold a special place in the hearts of some. From graphic tees to ripped jeans, the decade has been filled with highs and lows in the fashion world that almost everyone can remember to some extent.

Starting out in the early 2010s, Abercrombie and Fitch hoodies and other athleisure was extremely popular, along with belts worn with dresses and oversized shirts. A favorite was oversized flannel worn open and tied around the waist, accompanied by skinny jeans. Quinn Holl and Sam Gingrich, two senior girls, found this style to be particularly fashionable and functional. For men, the graphic tee and hoodies were the hit, also with skinny jeans and typically a studded belt with a large buckle.

Leading into the mid-2010s, around 2014 to 2016, athleisure kept a prominent spot in the trends, with Adidas shoes becoming a staple for men and women alike. Monochromatic outfits were making more of an appearance in the women’s fashion arena, with plain dresses and rompers taking center stage. For men, the athletic, casual look was the prominent style, featuring sports jerseys, sweatpants, and bulky sneakers. Another popular item was chunky hiking boots in men’s casual fashion.

Finally, towards the end of the decade, from around 2017 until now, was defined by the rise of the pantsuit for women again, and a revival of classic colorful 70s style. Wide legged jeans, sheepskin coats, and tie dye shirts were all the rage, along with a host of other looks, such as fringed clothing and tall heeled boots. Abigail Behm, another senior girl, finds heeled boots to be an important staple in her fashion sense. She says they work with almost anything, and it’s an easy option to make any outfit stand out. Men’s fashion remained generally the same, with one major introduction; the patterned suit. Now, men can stray from the classic black and white jacket and shirt, and opt for a more colorful, patterned option. This has allowed for men to express themselves through fashion more at formal events than was ever possible.



Though the fashion of the decade has evolved over the years, the one thing that remains constant is the toleration for looks other than what is popular. A characterizing feature of this decade was the acceptance and open mindedness of the fashion community for any and every thing on every one. Men’s fashion dipped into the soft feminine side while women’s fashion dove into the more square, hardened, masculine side, allowing for a more rounded and colorful outlook on the fashion of the decade.

For more information on the trends of the decade put into an easily understandable format, see <https://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2019/12/best-of-the-decade-the-biggest-fashion-trends-of-the-2010s>

Origins of hot chocolate

Emily Smith - 9

Hot chocolate has always been a wintertime treat that many know and love. It pairs well with a candy cane or marshmallows, and no one can deny its delicious, chocolatey flavor. Its popularity has not diminished despite its age, which is over 500 years old. The process of adding cocoa beans only began in the 1500’s, but the original creation was actually made in 500 BC by the Mayans. The first recipe for the original hot chocolate consisted of cocoa seeds, cornmeal, chili peppers, and water. The water’s temperature was not hot, making the beverage cold. So, why is the name hot chocolate then?

Well, it was not until the early 1500’s that hot chocolate made its way to Europe where it began to change some of its components. Upper class citizens in Spain began to use hot water to create the drink, and the chili peppers were removed. Over 100 years later, a new idea was developed in London. Hans Sloane, the president of the Royal College of Physicians, discovered an alternate recipe from Jamaica, which called for milk to be added to the chocolate drink. Thus, the name hot chocolate was born!

Now, in the 21st century, hot chocolate is enjoyed in countries all over the world. There are still different recipes, too. Spain and Italy’s recipes cause the beverage to be very thick, whereas in the United States it is made to be thin. Latin America’s hot chocolate is even spiced. Hamburg students love it too. “It’s my favorite drink on a snowy day!” says Angelina Carsto, Grade 9. “Swiss Miss is the best!” adds Jenya Warner, Grade 9. No matter the destination, drinking hot chocolate is a favorite winter pastime.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.thespruceeats.com/the-history-of-hot-chocolate-764463>



Angel cookies transform into Disney fan favorite Baby Yoda

Paiton Albrecht - 12

After the latest release of the *Mandorian* on Disney +, character and now fan favorite baby Yoda has taken social media by storm in the form of memes and now holiday baking. The *Mandorian* was Disney +’s most anticipated series to be only available on the platform. The Star Wars series follows Mando a bounty hunter and his companion which is a

baby Yoda that has stolen the world heart.

Now on Facebook a trend of making angel cookies, and then cutting the head off of the angel makes a baby Yoda and the baker can decorate accordingly to make the Baby Yoda take form.

This although very adorable, as an end product it is a bit disturbing of a long holiday tradition

that is making angel cookies at Christmas time. “Whoever thought of this is very creative, but it is sad and comical to see the angels sacrifice at the force of baby Yoda,” says Senior Kyle Reppert.

This cookie idea is taking the internet by storm by anti-Christmas lovers. Even though there are baby Yoda cookie cutters, most households have an angel cookie cutter. This is understandable by Christmas lovers, but that did not stop them to create #stopbabyyoda hashtag.

Whether students are baby Yoda lovers or not, everyone can appreciate a good cookie, “I mean I do not care what the cookie looks like; it’s a cookie.” Reppert says while laughing.

The *Underland Chronicles* is a hidden gem

Kristen Martinez - 10

Suzanne Collins may have risen to fame due to the wide popularity of the *Hunger Games* series, but prior to the release of those books, she created another fantasy world just as engrossing and fascinating. The *Underland Chronicles* is a series of five books following a young boy throughout his adventures within the world he finds under his apartment building in New York City. Published from 2003 to 2007, an eleven year old boy, Gregor, and his little sister, Boots, learn of a world beneath their own.

After falling through the grate in his laundry room, Gregor is suddenly in a world far different from his own. He finds there is an entire civilization hiding from those above the surface. All of the people are without technology and use more primitive forms of tools, such as torches for their light sources.

The *Underland* is composed of semi-albino humans and many different creatures, most of which are sentient and have the ability to think and speak fluently. These creatures, such as bats, mice, rats, and cockroaches, are much larger than their counterparts on the surface, and each have their own motivations.

The cockroaches attach themselves to Boots, seeing her as their princess. The bats are allied with the humans, and many of which enter into partnerships with humans, vowing to protect one another no matter what.

Although these stories came out many years ago, they are still worth reading.

