

HAPPENINGS

A PUBLICATION OF HAMBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL

Should we celebrate Thanksgiving?

Tabitha Engel - 12



Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday that has been celebrated for decades. The holiday itself seems innocent enough. Families and friends gather around to eat and talk about all they are thankful for in their lives. Recently, though, many people have brought attention to some of the more problematic parts of Thanksgiving. Many people do not see it as a wholesome holiday but rather a day shrouded in misinformation, oppression, and an inaccurate portrayal of history. This causes people to ask if Thanksgiving should really be a day that is celebrated.

Contrary to popular belief, the first official Thanksgiving was not held by the pilgrims. In fact it was held a great deal of time after them. Abraham Lincoln was the one who officially declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863. He did not intend for it to honor the pilgrims or Native Americans, instead it was meant to be a celebration for the Union Army. The Union had had a lot of victories in the Civil War that year, and Lincoln held the holiday to congratulate them. While that may have been the first official Thanksgiving, the holiday had existed in different forms much longer.

We get our version of Thanksgiving from the Pilgrims on the Mayflower. They came over from England in 1621 and built their colony in Plymouth. They had a very good harvest that year and so they had a feast. Then out of pure generosity, the pilgrims invited the Natives. The pilgrims invited members of the Wampanoag tribe to dinner and for that night they were able to get along. This was generally accepted as fact for many years, but now the accuracy of the above information is hotly contested.

To start off it should be known that the pilgrims were not actually pilgrims. At least they did not refer to themselves as that. The settlers from England were called Separatists, meaning that they left England to separate from the church there. They were here in America to set up a country that would run on their religion's rules. The Separatist's strict religion led to conflict with Native Americans quite often. One thing Thanksgiving gets wrong is that the Natives and the colonists were absolutely not friends. The colonists infected the Natives with smallpox killing most of their population in the surrounding areas. And whom the colonists did not kill with disease, they killed with war. Colonists would often burn down Native American villages in order to make room for their own families. And since the colonists had superior weapons, the Natives were left mostly defenseless.

The Native American tribe surrounding the Plymouth colony was the Wampanoag tribe. The colonists and the Native Americans had little contact and would only send their leaders to talk if it was necessary. Furthermore there is zero written evidence that anybody from the Wampanoag tribe joined the colonist's feast. There is nothing written down from either party to suggest that they were together on that day.

Also, the story of Squanto was not as pleasant as school made us believe. Squanto did exist; his full name was actually Tisquantum, and he did help the colonists. He taught them how to plant crops, where to fish, and even acted at times as a translator. Unfortunately, his kindness was not repaid. In 1614 English colonists held him captive and would eventually sell him to slave owners in Spain.

Lastly, turkey the staple of Thanksgiving, was not eaten by the pilgrims. The meat they ate was most likely deer. They did eat cranberries, but no pumpkin pie as ovens had yet to be invented.

Many Americans still see Thanksgiving as an important holiday that represents unity, family, and faith. And while that may be what it represents to most today, others cannot look past its questionable history. Many people are starting to see the holiday as an attempt to cover up the suffering of the Natives and glorify American history. They do have some pretty valid arguments as well, considering most everything we were taught about it is fiction. But the true meaning of Thanksgiving is up to the individual to decide.

Additional information on the true origins of Thanksgiving can be found here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/21/us/thanksgiving-myths-fact-check.html>

Club Spotlight : STUCO

Lauren Atkins - 9

Student Council, also known as STUCO, is a club that has been a part of Hamburg Area High School for 20+ years. This is a club that gathers students who want to accomplish similar goals to benefit our school community. The advisor of the club is Miss McCarthy-Wright.

Miss McCarthy-Wright became the club adviser in 2014, but the program has been ongoing for the whole amount of time she has worked at Hamburg High and much longer. Miss McCarthy is satisfied every time she sees the dedication and organization that the students contribute.

Student council was organized for a group of students that have ambition and strive to accomplish a change. STUCO has a voice, and they project it widely throughout the school. While this club organizes pep rallies, dances, and other events, they also play a role of leadership and advocates. These students are expected to help build a well functioning community and be examples for other students.

Miss McCarthy explains, "When successful events are finished, they have a sense of accomplishment that they made it happen." After every event, that sense of knowing that something great was the outcome is extremely humbling.

STUCO has been an organization for 88 years dating back to 1931. This club is meant for students of all kinds who strive for change and want to accomplish something great. This club is highly recommended by all people.



Starbucks holiday drinks arrive

Paiton Albrecht - 12

It is that time at Hamburg Area High School, where the leaves are falling off of the trees and students are bundling up their winter coats. Most importantly, a hot topic around

the halls of Hamburg is Starbucks new seasonal drinks.

This time of year is something Starbucks connoisseur look forward to. Starbucks changes the game seasonally each year and this time we are looking at it globally.

McDonalds is known for it and Starbucks now to. Many like to call it a drink scavenger hunt. The more countries a traveller goes to, the more options of seasonal drinks they get. Exclusive drinks to that country make it all the more exciting.

As of 2018 the most holiday drink for Japan was Christmas Strawberry Cake Milk, Strawberry Christmas cake is one of Japan's most beloved holiday traditions, made with fluffy sponge cake, whipped cream and strawberries. Staying in the East Japans Neighbor China enjoyed a Snowy Cheese Flavored Latte, made with baked cheese flavored sauce blended into classic espresso and topped with light whipped cream, blueberry flavored sprinkles and star-shaped crisps. These drinks are inspired by the culture that surrounds them, and Starbucks drinkers alike applaud the attention to culture.

Jumping across the ocean, Starbucks takes us to Latin America and the Carribean. Adding some fruit flavor, dark Cherry Mocha is their holiday drink as of 2018. Espresso with bittersweet mocha sauce, dark cherry flavored syrup and steamed milk, topped with sweetened whipped cream. Moving north to the United States and Central America, as always never forget the prized Toasted White Chocolate Mocha, made with rich espresso, steamed milk and flavors of caramelized white chocolate topped with whipped cream and candied cranberry sugar.

Lastly, in the Atlantic to Europe and Africa, an interesting recipe that has spiked many interests is the Salted Caramel Brownie Hot Chocolate. It consists of steamed milk and mocha sauce are combined with salted caramel sauce for this holiday treat. The beverage is topped with a salted caramel brownie whipped cream and finished with a blend of brownie crumbles and salted caramel brittle for that perfect balance between sweet and salty.

Senior Kelsi Behler says that she is most excited for the reusable cups, "I cannot wait to see what holiday design I want." The public every holiday season waits to see what cups will be released. This 2019 Holiday season they have lots of green and red options with the words, "Merry Coffee."

All these are prized beverage worldwide crafted to the unique cultures that make up the world around us. Not only did Starbucks craft delicious holiday beverage, but also they crafted unique beverages for all cultures worldwide.

November begins to light the holiday spirit in us all

Keira Conrad - 9

Following the end of October, many begin to get into a festive spirit; they begin to decorate for a holiday more than a month away - that holiday being Christmas. The first of November draws attention back to the festive

songs that have been created throughout the past holiday seasons. An iconic piece that many seem to have on their minds being Mariah Carey's All I Want for Christmas is You. Even though December has yet to begin, many already have their minds filled with thoughts of hot chocolate, snow, and peppermint. Though all holidays are significant, Christmas is what most think of when faced with the term 'holiday', and unsurprisingly so. While a majority of people are already getting prepared to the upcoming day, there are some who believe that now no time for such a thing. Christmas itself is, of course, an important part of December - however, the day that most shop their Christmas gifts follows directly after Thanksgiving. Black Friday is a rathemessy event, and even still, many students have already begin sharing their plans for the day. Clarissa Dimovitz, ninth-grader, shares that "My family and I most likely going shopping" when confronted with the idea of Black Friday. Regardless, the start of November ignites the flame of holiday spirit in the students of Hamburg Area High School all the same. Christmas carols are heard in the quiet sections of the hallways, and many students are smiling at the thought of the many days that school will not be in session.



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Elective Spotlight: Astronomy

Tori Rhoades - 12

Astronomy, a half year elective taught for the past four years by Mr. Brown, is one of the most liked classes taken by students at Hamburg Area High School. The course focuses on the cosmos, constellations, the Milky Way Galaxy and beyond. This elective is available for all students, meaning the classes contain students from grades 9-12. A large majority of senior students enroll in this class in order to gain 0.5 science credits for the school year. This course gives seniors the ability to take an additional science class even if they have already completed the certain number of science credits they need in order to graduate.

Astronomy is a popular elective not only because of the subject, but also because they appreciate the teaching and the atmosphere of the class. Senior Quinn Holl appreciates the class because of certain activities in which the students get to participate. For example, she said that she had “the ability to go outside and look at the moon through a telescope.” Holl feels that the hands-on experience she gets in Astronomy helps her understand the content more and makes the class much more interesting.

Another senior, Michael Maenza, also looks forward to his time in Astronomy class every day. He enjoys that some days “Mr. Brown shows the class a TV show called Cosmos.” This TV show shares information about some of the first astronomers and explains some of the theories of the universe. Maenza also enjoys the class because he feels that, “Mr. Brown is a very good teacher, and he makes sure that his classes aren’t boring. This may be because Mr. Brown has a special interest in this topic himself. He provides a fun atmosphere to class that is enjoyable for everyone.” Both Maenza and Holl encourage others to sign up for Astronomy next year and hope that the lessons in the class keep getting better and better.



Welcome to an alternate reality

Sam Gingrich - 12

An Invitation to an Alternate Reality, the fifth studio album produced by Danish-American rock group New Politics, was released Friday, November 1. The album was released ahead of the band's upcoming 3 Dimensional Tour with the Plain White T's and The Mowgli's, which kicks off on November 12 in Chicago. The album, though it has a much different sound compared to the band's four previous albums, has been warmly received by fans. The album invites listeners to explore heart break, self doubt, and recovery.



The first track, “Unstoppable,” serves as a sort of pump up track to listeners, reminding them that they can do anything they want and nothing can stop them. In an exclusive interview with Alternative Press, lead singer David Boyd explains that the second track of the album, “Bad for Me,” discusses how “our feelings create the self-talk in our heads”. Boyd continues by stating that when we have those moments, we might begin to believe that maybe we “are wrong for the person we love.” The third track, and lead single, “Ozone,” is about hope and facing challenges “but always feeling them slightly out of reach,” Boyd elaborates.

In the interview with Alternative Press, expresses the sixth track of the album, “Let Your

Head Go/Pretend It's 1995 & Talk,” is about being able to turn off the brain and disconnect from technology and the internet that serve as distractions in everyday life. “Therapy” is about the path to recovery and how we know that the road to total recovery is constantly a work in progress. The album finishes off with “Wish You Well/...Can't Explain,” which Boyd describes as a “metaphor for how once we feel clear-minded, we still battle negative thoughts on a daily basis,” and how it is not easy to constantly be positive.

The album definitely does not sound the same as New Politics fans are used to, but different is good. It is an interesting sound for the band, but it works well with the lyrics and subject matters of the songs. I look forward to seeing any and all music videos that the band releases in the future.

“An Invitation to an Alternate Reality” is available to stream now on Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube. To read the full interview and get more information about the album, visit www.altpress.com/features/new-politics-an-invitation-interview/

HOLIDAY SPIRIT WEEK DEC 16-20

MONDAY: COZY BY THE FIRE

TUESDAY: CHRISTMAS SOCK

WEDNESDAY: UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER

THURSDAY: CHRISTMAS TREE (GREEN)

FRIDAY: CANDY CANE (STripES)

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Day Tripper: Bring in the holiday spirit at Philadelphia’s Christmas Market

Paiton Albrecht - 12

Many students at Hamburg Area High school are unfamiliar with the abundance of holiday activities and festivals are major city Philadelphia has to offer. Philadelphia is about an hour drive from Hamburg and will get students’ families in the holiday spirit.

Running from Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve, with a preview weekend on November 23 and 24, Christmas Village in Philadelphia will once again bring the charm of an authentic German Christmas market to Center City Philadelphia. Christmas Village in Philadelphia is an outside Holiday market event in Center City Philadelphia, which is modeled after the traditional Christmas Markets in Germany. Vendors in more than 80 wooden booths will sell traditional European food, sweets, and drinks. All vendors present their goods including a rich variety of holiday gifts in traditional timber booths. People can also find Christmas ornaments, arts and crafts, toys, sweets and German food and drinks. Christmas Village is a great event to stroll around, meet friends, enjoy live performances and Christmas music.

Along with the Christmas market, students can walk over to city hall at Dilworth Park, where Rothman ice rink is set up for the holiday season. On the west side of city hall, students can rent skates and skate around the holiday themed ice rink. The cost is five dollars, which is an incredibly affordable price to get out and active in the cold weather.

For more history about Christmas Markets, visit <http://www.philachristmas.com/>



TV Show Review – Peaky Blinders

Aaron Kurtz – 10



Its fans had to wait two years for this new season since season 4. It was definitely worth the wait though. Many rewatched the whole series again, to prepare for season 5.

It stars Cillian Murphy as Thomas Shelby, Tom Hardy as Alfie Solomons, Paul Anderson as Arthur Shelby, and many other great actors. Steven Knight is the man behind the show. He was involved with other shows and movies such as Closed Circuit, Dirty Pretty things, Hummingbird, Eastern Promises and many others.

Steven Knight wrote the show loosely based around stories he heard as a kid. The gang ‘Peaky Blinders’ was a real gang in Birmingham where the show takes place. The gang in real life ended in 1910 due to the “Birmingham Boys” but in the show the Blinders beat the Birmingham Boys. The most recent season takes place in 1929 during the financial crash and when the Fascist Party started to gain popularity.

Overall this may have been my favorite season. The ending was very intense, and I cannot wait for the next season. The show has so many great acting performances and the writing is unbelievably good. This season Thomas Shelby gets more involved in politics and not so much of the gangster stuff from previous seasons. This season’s main enemy they face is a man named “Oswald Mosley.” Who was the leader of the British Union of Fascists.

This season had a way different feel from the other seasons. For example, Season 4 dealt with the Italian mob coming over to England to kill the Peaky Blinders and there was that real like Scarface feel to the show. This season lacked in the action, but the writing is so good that it works out in the end. The scenes had some great cinematography and cool effects.

I recommend people to watch this show. It is only on Netflix unless you have the British channels on your TV. It talks a lot of World War 1 and other events happening between 1917-1929. Anyone who enjoys gangster shows, great writing, great acting, and amazing cinematography you will love this show.

Words in Deep Blue: A romantic tale of two former friends

Emily Smith - 9

Words in Deep Blue, written by Cath Crowley, is a novel based on best friends Henry and Rachel. These two were friends all throughout school, with Henry's advanced skills in English and Rachel's scientific smarts, they were bound to be friends. However, in their ninth grade year, Rachel started to feel more for Henry. She confessed her love to Henry in a letter the night before that she was moving away to a different town, Sea Ridge. She told him to call her as soon as he read it, but the call never came. Henry wrote to her after she had left Gracetown, but there was no mention of the love letter. Rachel assumed that he had read it but did not feel the same, so after a while she stopped sending letters back. After three years of separation, Rachel returned to Gracetown, and eventually was reunited with Henry. Will everything be resolved between Rachel and Henry?

I had never read a book that made me tear up until I read Words in Deep Blue. Many people feel that romantic books and movies are very repetitive, shallow, or even boring, but this novel is on the complete opposite end of the spectrum. There is something so different about this novel, as it shows the complexity of human relationships, whether it be friendships or romantic relationships. Yet, in its complexity, it is so relatable to life. It describes how challenging our personal relationships are, because human beings can be complicated at times. I have never been so emotionally invested into a book until I read Words in Deep Blue because of the way that it pinpoints how life can be a tangled mess, but in the end it is the people we love that triumph above all.

