

THE SCIO GAZETTE



TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Much like every other school, Scio is participating in the Christmas spirit. For the last twelve days before school ends for the winter break, students and teachers have participated in the twelve days of Christmas Spirit Week. There's a song about the twelve days of Christmas, but where do they come from and what do they mean? When it was dangerous for Catholics to live in peace with their beliefs, they had to come up with ways to still share their religion with their children and others. The song shared practices hidden in code through lyrics.



MR. BOWERS

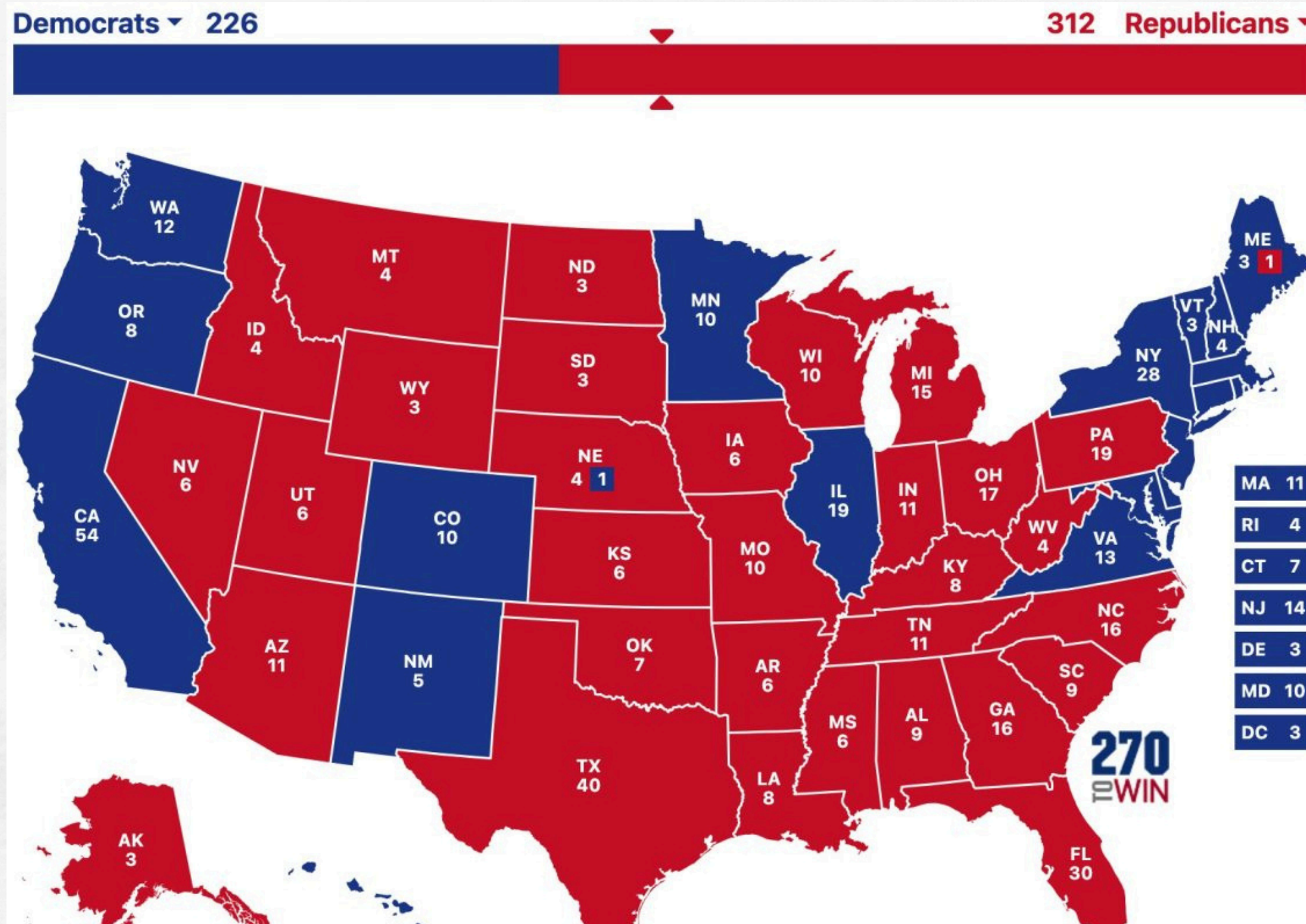
Interview for Mr. Bowers
What is your name: "Dylan Mr. Bowers"
Teaches: 7th, 8th, and eleventh social studies and U.S. history

Mr. Bowers became a lover of history at a young age. Despite his struggles in school, he had teachers rooting for him, giving him the encouragement he needed. This encouragement would make him eternally grateful. With everything his teachers had done for him, it made him think, "What a great way to spend a life, I should pursue that." And he has done exactly that. At just three years of teaching, he is feeling great, and thinks that this is his best year of teaching so far. He's more organized and set in his planning.

Mr. Bowers' hobbies include antique collecting, guitar, hunting, and stand up comedy. His current goals include his masters degree (which he has just been accepted into for the Spring), and finishing his kids nursery. He loves to travel, and has been all over the U.S., as well as Germany. Mr. Bowers biggest piece of advice for his students is to travel, to get out there and see what the world has to offer.

CURRENT NEWS

The Presidential Election



By: Cassidy Scholla

The 2024 U.S. presidential election marks another important moment in the country's democratic process, with voters across the nation making their voices heard. As with every election, citizens have the right to vote for the candidate they not only think would run the country best, but also who they believe would address their concerns. The 2024 election was mainly between the Republican candidate, Donald Trump, and the Democrat candidate, Kamala Harris. The two candidates had numerous rallies and campaigns that showed what they wanted to fight for. As the election of 2024 came to a close, Donald Trump was named the victor, winning with a total of 312 electoral votes. He also is the second president in history to have a gap in between terms; the only other president that this has happened to is Grover Cleveland. When Trump takes office, he also will be the oldest President to be elected, only being a couple months older than President Joe Biden was at his inauguration. President Elect Trump will be sworn in on January 20, 2025 alongside his running mate JD Vance. Hail to the Chief!

National & International News

New Jersey

For about a month now, drones have been spotted throughout New Jersey and New York. No one can identify where they are from and why there are so many of them. In fact, it has been so alarming that the FAA posed flight restrictions. What could they be?

San Fransisco

San Fransisco experienced their first ever Tornado on December 14.

South Korea

On December 3, South Korea's declared emergency martial law to protect from North Korea's communist forces. President Yoon Suk Yeol claimed that rival lawmakers are sympathizing with North Korea. The National Assembly voted unanimously to lift the order, but South Korean police stated that martial law would remain in place until the president lifted it himself. The order only lasted six hours and the President is now in the impeachment process because of the failed bid.

Georgia

Starting November 29th, Georgia's citizens began protesting in the streets when the government announced that they would be voting against their joining of the EU. The government, which is pro-Russia, does not want the country to join the EU, while the Georgian citizens want to.

Syria

On December 8th, Syria was liberated from Assad's rule. The country is undergoing a power struggle for control, with outside influences like Israel pushing into the country. Prisoners of Assad are being rescued daily, with more and more news of Assad's power being cast into the light.

Local News: Taco Bell Coming to Wellsville



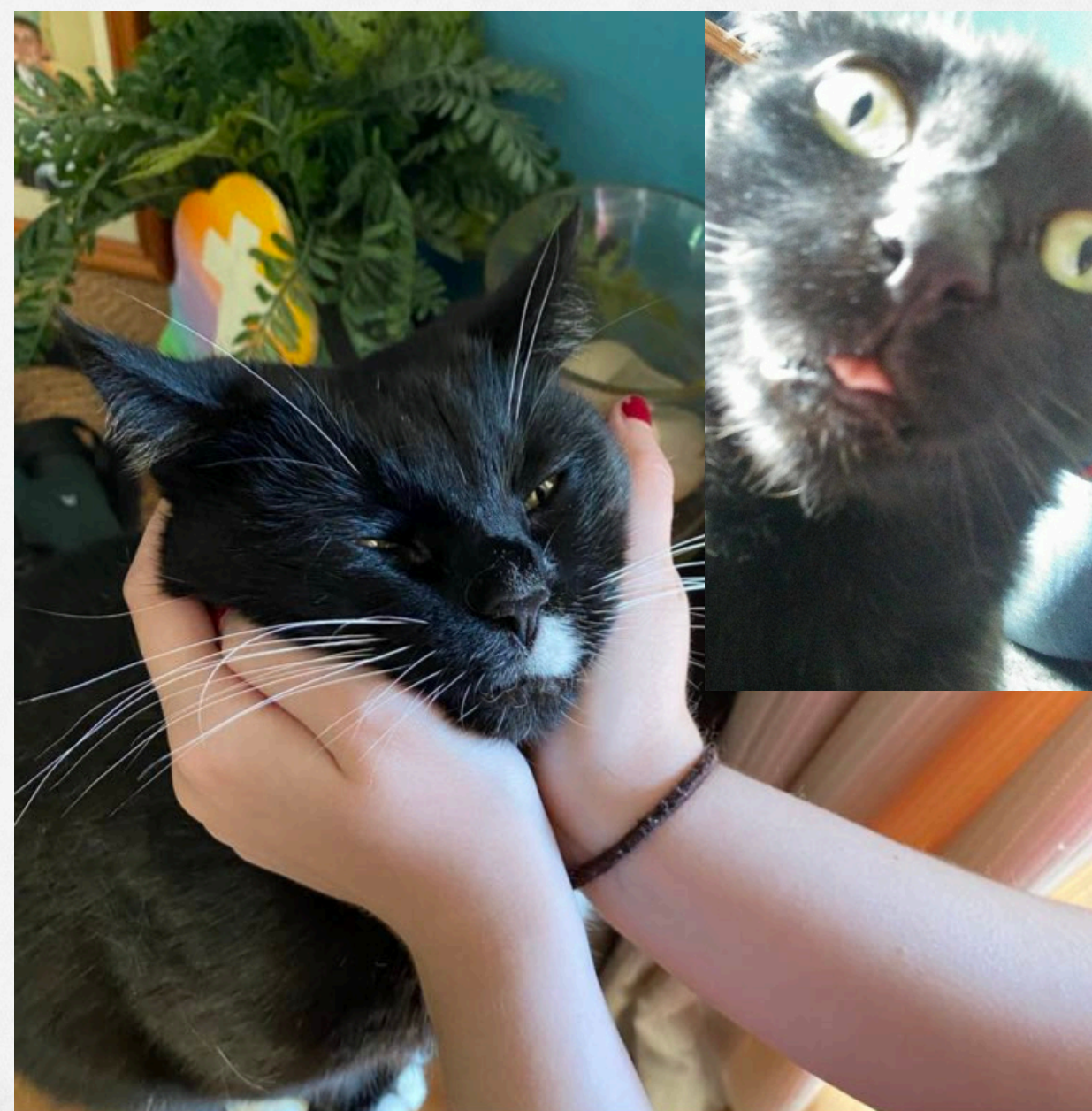
Have you heard? The brand new Taco Bell in Wellsville will be opening this Thursday, on December 19th. Make sure to check it out when you get the chance!!

OPINION PIECES

CATS

BY ALAYNA DAVENPORT

I absolutely love cats and I'd be 100 percent willing to argue that they are superior to dogs. Dogs are great and all, they're loyal and playful, but there's just so many things about them that make cats seem way better. Cats are soft, mind their business most of the time, and don't require a real bath very often, but they can still be cuddly and like to be around their owner. While yes, dogs are also cuddly and soft, they smell bad. Like a lot. Especially because they seem to enjoy finding the most disgusting thing they possibly can and either eat it or roll in it. Cats don't do that, they're very civilized. And, it's even scientifically proven that cats can help relieve people of anxiety and depression. I'm sure dogs can do something like that too but I doubt a dog could ever be as good as a cat no matter what.



STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE LESS HOMEWORK

By: Cassidy Scholla

During several years of school, students have been issued piles of assignments that seem to just continually build and grow. Why is it that students get loads of work that almost can be unrealistic to complete in just a single night? It needs to change.

Having so many different assignments to complete can be extremely exhausting on students and lead to several issues, primarily stress related. In an article from Stanford University, they mention that too much homework can be more negative, rather than positive. In their report, they stated that "56 percent of the students considered homework a primary source of stress", and many stated that homework led to "sleep deprivation and other health problems." The school-life balance can be hard to follow, especially when you add hours of homework to your schedule.

Another thing that should be considered in regards to a large amount of homework is the fact that it can be unnecessary and actually not helpful in elevating your education. Some things can be beneficial but others can be just considered "busy work." The Acton Academy wrote an article talking about the impacts of homework. They enunciated the fact that "the stress of homework kills the love of learning." It was shown that it takes away from critical thinking skills and creativity, as they are more focused on trying to complete the homework and get it done, rather than actually learning and retaining the information on the subject.

Some may argue that homework allows for more practice outside of the classroom. It allows for students to continue their education outside of school, further improving their academic performance. In an article from Thomas Fordham Institute, they wrote that it is a "powerful tool" that helps to give children from all backgrounds "the opportunity to keep learning when they are not in school." However, in order to achieve homework that will help students succeed, teachers must make sure that it is relevant and helpful, otherwise it is just busy work.

To summarize, while homework can potentially be effective, it can also be ineffective. Some topics are very useful and beneficial, and others are not. However, when homework is given, it shouldn't be to the extent that it is given right now. Extreme loads of work can negatively impact kids. Students deserve to have social lives outside of the classroom, rather than hours of homework to do every night.

SPORTS HISTORY



Varsity Girls Basketball Team (1992-1993)

By: Cassidy Scholla

This basketball team truly had a remarkable season. They climbed the ladder of success as they not only won their second consecutive Allegany County Class DD Division 1 title, but also won the Class "DD" Division Championship. After getting defeated in the sectional finals the year before, they came back and won against the #1 seed, Elba, bringing a "patch" back home to SCS. Here is what a few alumni Tigers had to say about their experience.

"It is one of the greatest memories of my life. It brought the community together and it was a big moment for the team, school, and town. It was a good day to be a Scio Tiger." -Tanya Scholla

"We won and I remember the excitement in the gym, the bus ride home, the people waiting in Scio as we froze riding the fire trucks. The newspaper the next day read "Scio and Wiech prove Perry wrong". I still have that clipping, to remind me of what our team accomplished that night." -Jami D'Arcy

"To say it was a privilege to be a part of an era at Scio is an understatement. Being a part of the championship team our senior year was a dream come true. We had fun and winning the way we did was amazing. I can still close my eyes and remember those final seconds of the Section V finals, and the feeling of the whole community being so proud of the seven girls who made it happen." -Chris Judd

ARTS & CULTURE



A LOOK INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

By Alayna Davenport

MS. STRAIGHT'S ART CLASS

One of the high school and middle school's most beloved teachers is the arts teacher, Ms. Straight. She teaches classes such as painting, pottery, photography, drawing, and so much more. Whenever Ms. Straight teaches her classes, she most looks forward to teaching her students how to do watercolor painting, along with other basic drawing skills. And, as students do not always enjoy art classes because they can be very challenging and stressful, she still looks forward to teaching them and watching them gain skills they never thought possible for themselves.

When Ms. Straight was in college, she decided that she wanted to be an art teacher. She realized that she would want a family at some point but would want a schedule that didn't take away from being with her kids. She also wanted a job where she could help people, and teaching fit that description perfectly. And now, 25 years later, she's still at it.

When Ms. Straight teaches her students, one of her main goals is to ensure her students don't simply just learn the skills she teaches, but to also grow as a person. While her classes can be a challenge to some of the students, they will learn skills that could lead them to finding a possible passion that they would have never known about other wise.

TEACHER ONLY SPIRIT WEEK

BY ALAYNA DAVENPORT

This week, November 18th to November 22nd, the teachers seemed to have had their own Spirit Week, without telling or including any of the students. On Monday, all the teachers showed up in their pajamas and looked as though they had just woken up, but they denied it, and claimed it was just a coincidence. On Tuesday, the teachers and staff wore jerseys for their favorite, or any sports team. For Wednesday, teachers showed up in western attire: cowboy boots, hats, and flannel. On Thursday, teachers brought in "Anything But a Cup" and drank from the weirdest things, like a blender, a shoe, or a toy. How could that be a coincidence? And finally, on Friday, all the teachers showed up wearing their most festive clothing, whether it be Christmas or St. Patrick's Day. What made the teachers decide they didn't want to include students in this? It's a secret!

MEDIA CULTURE



The Digital Divide

By: Cassidy Scholla

The Digital Divide is classified as the barrier between those who have available access to the internet/computers, and those who unfortunately do not. On both sides of the divide, it can greatly impact societies not only locally, but also nationally, or even globally. People with the internet have easy access to things such as social media, the latest news, several informational sources, and more. In our world, even job applications can be found and applied for through the internet. Having the use for these tools as well even allows you to practice computer skills, which is required for a variety of jobs. On the other hand, people without internet access are left out of these things. They are left out of new economic and social news, the ability to find more opportunities for jobs, and etc. The unfortunate truth as well is that without internet use and basic computer skills, you could be limited for jobs, and/or receiving a lower pay because you don't have the same level of knowledge and skills.

The real question is however, is it better or worse to not have the internet? In my case, I fall under the category of having easy access to the internet, computers, and what have you. Now, I could say I'm lucky as I am able to research things for assignments, stay updated on the latest trends and news, and can show expertise in using the internet and being able to do basic things on a computer. I would also argue though, that having these resources also impacts my life negatively. This doesn't just apply to me however, it can apply to anyone and everyone in our society that has access to this. Excessive use of the internet can lead to feelings of depression and anxiety, as well as having trouble focusing, an increase in the risk of burnout, and even having a dependency on others as we compare our lives to others' "perfect" ones. Studies have shown that having the access to search symptoms for health conditions you think you have can lead to anxiety, and that you should simply go to the professionals instead. It also states how it can affect your sleep as excessive use can block melatonin secretion, which helps to regulate your sleep (Piedmont Healthcare, n.d). The societies without these things don't have these same issues, as it is shown that people that don't use the internet very frequently are normally happier and healthier. This kind of shelter from the internet also is valuable as it allows people not to feed into things like misinformation cyberbullying or cybersecurity issues. As I mentioned before though, they also can be limited to things like job opportunities and valuable news. So is the divide really a good or a bad thing? Or can it be both? I personally think that both sides of the divide have their benefits and drawbacks.

HISTORY & TRENDS



FAVORITE CHRISTMAS MOVIES

Middle School:

1. *Elf*
2. *Home Alone*
3. *Gremlins*

High school:

1. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*
2. *Elf*
3. *Home Alone*

THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

With Christmas fast approaching, we see an increase of delivery trucks, lights, and festive decorations. Kids writing letters to Santa as families set up trees in the house, it's a fun holiday of giving. But how did we get here? Why do we go all out on tree's? And what is the deal with the big, old, and jolly man sneaking into our houses with gifts?

Christmas comes from a blend of Christian and pagan traditions that has been molded into the day we celebrate currently. Many cultures have celebrated a variety of similar customs caused by the winter solstice such as big feasts and giving gifts to loved ones. As christianity rose, these traditions would merge together, bringing along with it the date of Jesus's birth. Over time, these customs and traditions have spread and taken on new life throughout the world.

In America and England, Christmas is celebrated by decorating trees, a custom derived from pagan times. The trees were still green during the winter, and were able to sustain the cold. These trees were used to decorate homes during the winter solstice to ward off evil spirits as the days grew longer. As this became more popular, especially loved by royalty in the 19th century, decorating the tree became the symbol of Christmas, as it brought people together to decorate and share laughter with one another.