

# The Talon

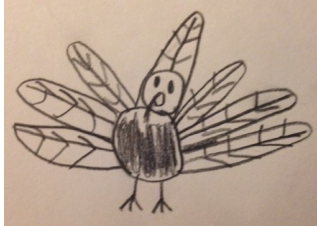
Seminole, FL



Seminole Middle School  
Volume 1, Issue 2

November 2016

## Thanksgiving Issue



Artwork by Ellie Carrington

## Spotlight on NJHS at SMS



At the official Induction Ceremony on November 3, NJHS swore in its new officers: **Olivia Collins, Treasurer; Jordyn Condreay, Secretary; Kendall Laplante, Vice President; Nicholas McClure, President and Brynn Connell, Historian.**

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### Pumpkin Pie is #1!

By Isabella Cadogan and Chyenne Cronk

We polled a total of 101 sixth graders about their favorite Thanksgiving foods, and 1st place with 41 votes: PUMPKIN PIE! 2nd place with 36 votes goes to mashed potatoes. Now we had a pretty close call with votes, but for 3rd place with 31 votes was turkey. The votes were super close together, but in the end, most votes were



for pumpkin pie!

By Brandi Colliver

In the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), these qualities are searched for:

Someone who...

- ◆ Earns good grades
- ◆ Is responsible
- ◆ Doesn't get referrals
- ◆ Is respectful
- ◆ Contributes to their community

So, are you wondering how you can join the NJHS? It's 8th grade only, you have to have a GPA of 3.5 or above, and no more than two referrals from 6th and 7th grade. Letters go

out to people that qualify at the beginning of their 8th grade year. Then, they can decide if they want to apply. Mrs. Marn says that to keep kids on the right path, she checks report cards and referral data every quarter. If their GPA drops down, or if they get a referral, they get a probation letter and they must fix whatever is wrong.

"I enjoy working with these students because they work hard and they're very respectful." - Mrs. Marn

Being in the NJHS is very interesting, according to Hannah Williams. It makes her feel very proud and

excited. In addition to the 3.5 GPA, you also have to have done some prior volunteer work, Hannah tells. NJHS will impact Hannah's life: "I feel that it will help me become more responsible in school and out of school." Hopefully this inspires all students to keep good grades!

Obviously, NJHS is helping kids maintain good grades, be responsible, say NO to referrals, be respectful, and even helping them contribute to their community. This is a great, inspiring society that hopefully will persuade others to stay on the right path and follow their dreams!

# Good Grief, Charlie Brown

## Everyone knows the name Charlie Brown!

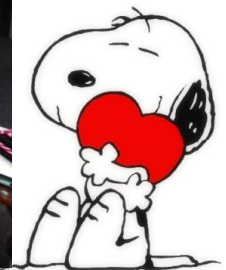
By Kamryn Kight and Bridget Thomas

Charlie Brown first appeared in 1948. He has been around for a while. The character was originated by Charles M. Schulz. He is also the creator of the Peanuts movie. 17,897 comic strips were made during the year 1950 through 2000. Did you know that Schulz did not choose the name of Charlie Brown's faithful pet Snoopy, and do you know how Charlie Brown got Snoopy? Charlie Brown's parents bought Snoopy for him after a boy dumped a bucket of sand on Charlie

in a sand box. Charlie Brown had aged throughout the comic strips, but not much. He was originally four years old when the comics first came out. Charlie Brown has two pieces of hair; one in the front and one in the back.

Most of our teachers grew up with Charlie Brown. When Ms. Burdette was a child, she had a Charlie Brown lunch box and thermos. She read the comics every day. Her favorite character is Sally because she has curly hair like her. Ms. Love's favorite character is Snoopy because he

brings everyone together. She reads the comics all the time. She even played Sally in her school play when she was in high school! When Ms. Love was a child she had a piano, a Lucy dress, and a Charlie Brown Christmas tree with Charlie Brown ornaments. She has a tradition where every year she watches "The Great Pumpkin" and the Charlie Brown Christmas story. These comics have been around for a long time: everyone knows the name Charlie Brown!



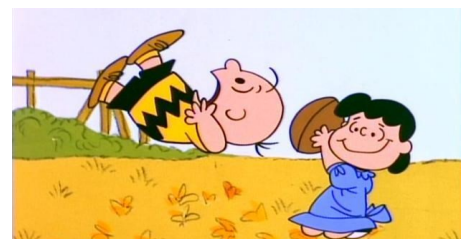
## NFL Thanksgiving Games

By Andrew Fyock and Piper Rosenberg

On Thanksgiving Day, six NFL teams will play against each other. The first 2 teams that are playing at 12:30 pm are the Vikings and the Lions. The second teams that are playing at 4:30 pm are the Redskins and the Cowboys. The last 2 teams that are playing on Thanksgiving at 8:30 pm are the Steelers and the Colts.

We asked 7th grader, Blake Bennett - a huge NFL football fan, who he thought would win the 3 games. He predicts for game 1, the Vikings. He thinks they're going to win because they are the number 1 rated team in the NFL right now. His pick for game 2 is the Cowboys because they have a potential rookie of the year running back and an amazing rookie quarterback. For game 3, Blake is going with

the Steelers because they have way more chemistry and skill, more than the Colts. Watch NFL football on Thanksgiving to see if his predictions



# The Great Thanksgiving Day Store Controversy

By Ashelyn Bortner and Kyleigh O'Brien

Thanksgiving is a day to celebrate family and appreciate all you're thankful for. However, some people have to work on this day. Whether it's at a store, a restaurant, or an office, people around our country have to leave this special time with their family in order to support themselves. In some families, this is one of the only times they get to see each other, so it's an important day that shouldn't be taken away from them. But on the other hand, some families need the extra money, and others need to do last minute shopping on Thanksgiving. So how do students at Seminole Middle School feel about stores being open and employees having to work on this meaningful day?

One hundred SMS students were polled to get their opinions on this matter. 58% of the students said that stores should be open on Thanksgiving Day, and 42% of them said they should not. All of the students who said they should be open explained that the public might need a place to go last minute shopping. One student even said, "What if I want a Pumpkin Spice Latte?" These stu-

dents feel that they need somewhere to shop and wouldn't know where to go if the stores weren't open. However, the students that said stores should be closed stated that families should be together on that day, and if stores are open it prevents them from spending this special day with their families. But what about the people that actually have to work and be away from their families? What do they think about stores being open?

According to Mrs. Haber of the 7th grade office, she has had to work on Thanksgiving day once before. She stated that the day was very lonely, and she was missing her family. She also explained that it was very abnormal and she didn't feel as a part of things as she normally would. She wasn't able to do things like cook or feel included in other family activities. Mrs. Haber said that "Thanksgiving is a day for family," and that people shouldn't have to work on this day. However, her family was very understanding, but they still didn't like that they couldn't spend time with her. Fortunately since she now works at a school, she doesn't have to worry about missing this special day again.

In conclusion, the majority of the students at SMS feel like stores should be open on Thanksgiving Day because we need a place to shop. Perhaps if they saw this from an employee's point of view, their opinion might change. Do you think that stores should be open on Thanksgiving day?



## McClure Proudly Representing SMS at FL All-State Chorus

By Logan Ferrell

Nicholas McClure, 8th grade, was chosen to go to Florida All-State Chorus. That is a great honor for Nicholas and for SMS. The teachers, administrators and students at SMS are all proud. Nicholas said he is "very happy," and his chorus teacher Mrs. Wyant says, "Nicholas has worked very hard" for this. He will be performing Jan. 14th - Jan 16th at the Straz Center in Tampa.



He out-performed about 4500 students to be chosen. According to the Florida Vocal Association, the All-State Choruses are highly select groups of choral students from Florida's junior high, middle and senior high schools who are brought together for the purposes of rehearsing and performing selected music with guest conductors. Way to go, Nicholas!

## SMS Celebrates America's Veterans

By Kaia Allison and Hannah Robinson

Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans - living or dead, but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime. Veterans Day is a nice holiday to celebrate because it reminds us that the people in our nation's military uniforms care about others' freedom and life. Mr. Gluck and Mrs. Veenstra were both in the military. Mr. Gluck says, "It's nice to get recognized." Mrs. Veenstra believes "Veterans Day is an important day to celebrate because it was intended to be a day of celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism." For Veterans Day, SMS asked Sargent Johnson to come and talk about veterans. He said that he started in the military when he was 17, and for the first 2 years of being in the military, he had to go through training. Mrs. Hoffman was not in the military, but she still does celebrate Veterans Day. She says, "This year for

Veterans Day, I am going to put out my flag." SMS joins our nation in say-

ing thank you, veterans, for all your hard work.



**SMS participated in the Think Thru Math program that helped raise \$7500 for families of Veterans to send their children to college. Sixth graders attended a special Veterans Day assembly where the check was presented.**

## SMS Cheerleaders Get Pumped For 2016 Season!

By Kyleigh O'Brien

Adrenaline pumps through them as they cheer the basketball team on. They run through their favorite cheers and bring new spirit to the team and their supporters. These are the cheerleaders. At Seminole Middle School, we have a special team of cheerleaders that brings excitement and encouragement wherever they go.

Brooke Good and Olivia Collins, two eighth graders on the team, gave me a special look into the cheerleaders. They practice once a week, and put a

lot of hard work into their sport. The team is coached by Mrs. Barkalow, who is also a math teacher at our school. Olivia and Brooke explained that they love cheerleading because it's fun to have spirit and support the other sports teams. To be a cheerleader, you have to be excited and always ready to get pumped up. The girls said that "Mrs. Barkalow is really fun" and helps pump them up during practices. Cheerleading also involves a lot of teamwork and cooperation throughout the practices. Olivia and Brooke both said that they love being on the team with so many friends.

During games, the cheerleaders give a lot of spirit and pep to the teams to get them excited and ready. Even if the team wins or loses, the cheerleaders are always there to support them and are proud no matter what happens. After a win, the girls said they always do the "Rowdy" cheer to congratulate the team. SMS is proud of its cheerleaders, and students are always so excited to have them at any school games. We look forward to the 2016 season and thank them for bringing spirit to our school!

# The Turkey Trot

By Victoria Cangemi and Kate McClellan

The Turkey Trot has been a big part of Thanksgiving morning for many people. It all started in Sacramento, California in 1994. Now, 22 years later, this fun race attracts 27,000 runners annually. Some of those runners work right here at SMS. For example, Ms. Suchanek, Mrs. Cutler, Ms. Larison, and Mrs. Marn have all run in the Turkey Trot before. The most popular races this year are the 5k or the 10k.

Many people who have run the Turkey

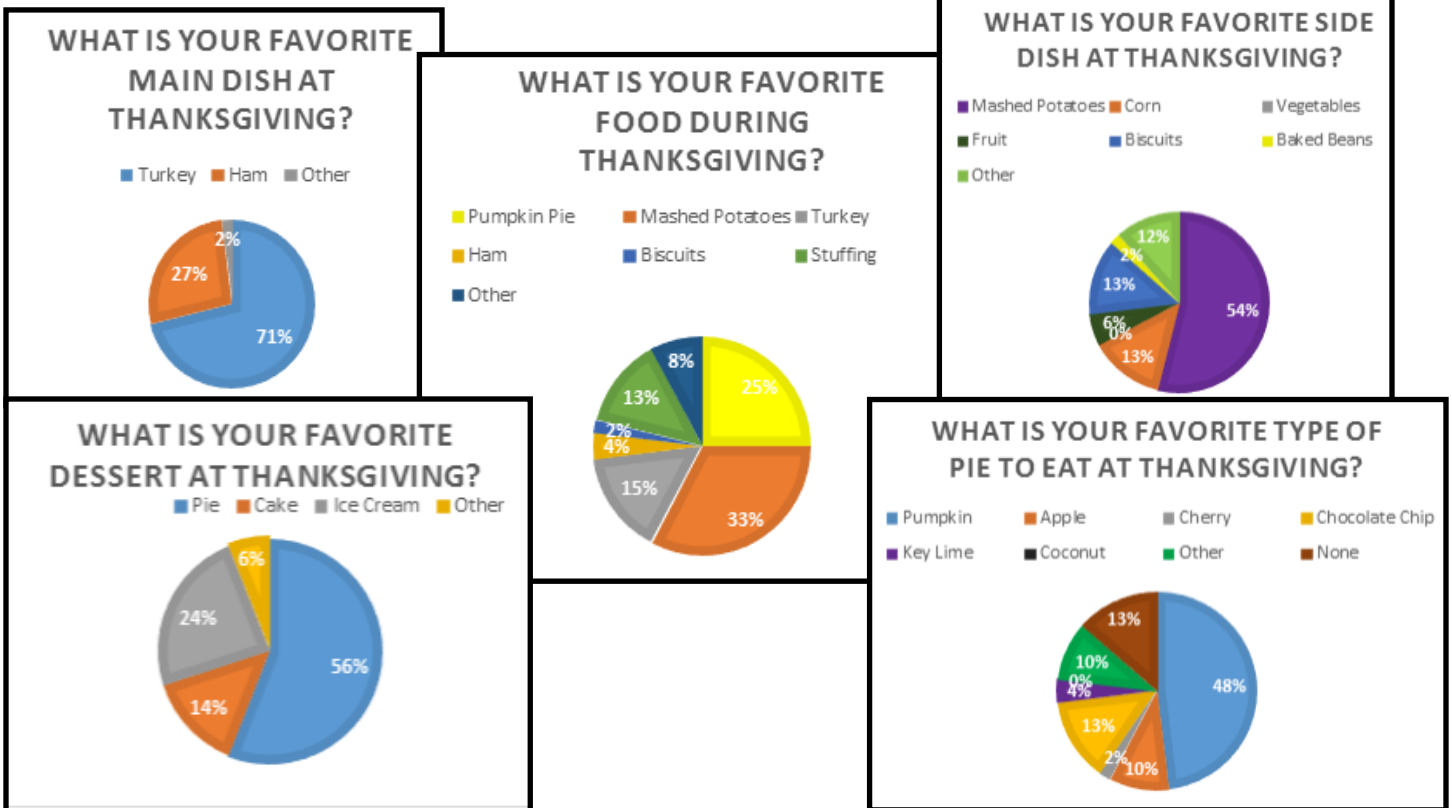
Trot have to train 2-3 times a week and many times on the weekends. According to Ms. Larison, "The best part about the race is seeing everyone dressed up in ridiculous costumes," Some of the costumes she remembers are people dressed up as turkeys, pilgrims, and Native Americans. Mrs. Cutler's favorite part about the race is "the finish line, because you get pie after!" She also said, "I feel great, and my family is always there to cheer me on!" Mrs. Marn added, "It's a fun time to spend with family and to do something healthy."



# Favorite Foods During Thanksgiving

By Mikaela Wright

When I watch Thanksgiving movies and commercials, I always see a big table of lots and lots of food. I wanted to know what kids around SMS like to eat during the Thanksgiving holiday. I interviewed three 7th period classes: Mr. Clay, Mrs. Barkalow, and Mrs. Russo. I received a collection of different answers that I, and many others, can relate to. These are the results:



# Proud Pics

## SMS guitar students rock the strings!

By Isabella Cadogen and Cheyenne Cronk

Mrs. Werly, the guitar teacher at SMS, has around 80 students she teaches. She has been teaching guitar for two years so far. Some students might have trouble with guitar or may be new to it. If you are one of these people, Mrs. Werly recommends an app called yousician which allows you to physically play your guitar while yousician tells you what strings to hit and then gives you feedback and tips on how to improve. Yousician can also allow you to play against people. Mrs. Werly also recommends youtube for lessons, tutorials, etc. Well, you may even be able to get some tips from a guitar artist.

Guitars can be a little hard to play for some but Cora Thibideau says it's fun and a great hobby to pass the time by.

She plays the strum base as her guitar. She recently played at the guitar concert, and she was great! She played "Die a Happy Man" and "Toxic" and she may have played a lot more.

The other day we got to see in Mrs. Werly's room (room 203) and it was fascinating to see all the guitars hanging on the wall and how the room was so big because the ceiling was like TWICE as tall! Guitar can bring you to big opportunities, and it can introduce you to new friends. It can help lead you to a career if you want to be in the music industry. Hey, it might even show you new cultures in music. Even little things can help with knowing guitar, like maybe you can play at your friend's birthday party or special events, maybe weddings in your family or even just for fun. Guitar can help you start your own band because it



**Cora Thibideau plays "Toxic" by Brittany Spears at the guitar concert on Nov. 10th.**

will open you up to playing other musical instruments.

If you are interested in a musical career, then guitar could be a great choice to start. It will help you understand low to high pitches and can become a great tool for practicing singing with. There are so many people in the world who play guitar and say it helped them out, so if you're interested, take it! You never know. It may help you a lot, and concerts will help others see your potential.



**SMS guitar students play "Die a Happy Man" led by Garrett Kline, 8th grade and Cora Thibideau, 7th grade.**

## A Review of Local Seafood Restaurants

By Blake Bennett and Keegan Zellmer

We have been to many seafood restaurants, and we definitely have our favorites. Some of them are Wahoo's, Salt Rock, Middle Grounds and Sea

Breeze. Lulu's also makes our 5 star list. Florida is filled with fish lovers and ocean lovers. Florida has a huge population of fish which means Florida has lots of seafood restaurants. Some of the popular local places are

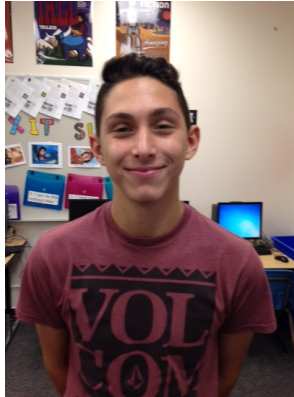
Lulu's, PJ's, and Salt Rock Grill. These are all local restaurants that serve good food. As you can see there is a huge variety of Grills, bars, fancy and local places for all different people. Florida's seafood restaurant variety is very good!

# SMS Gives Thanks

## What are Hawks Thankful for?

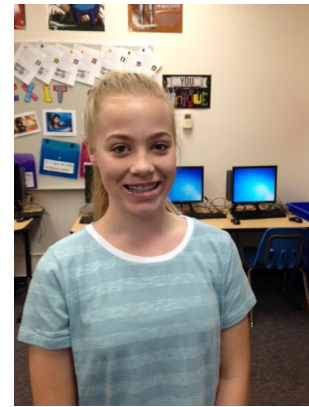
By Sydney Gavaghan, Nataleigh Symes, Savannah Llano

There are times when people need to say thanks for the good things in their lives. Thanksgiving, the last Thursday in November, is the time when people give can these thanks. Students in many 7th period classes, including Mrs. Buck's, Mrs. Hughes's, Mr. Doyle's, Ms. Cutler's and Mr. Mellinger's, say that they give thanks for family, friends and the roof over their heads. In Mrs. Russo's 3rd period English I Honors class, some students had very special things they are thankful for.



Ethan Maidenberg says he is thankful that his friend's dad "got a new job and hopes that everything goes well and he makes new friends."

Kaitlin Davis is thankful for "the great opportunities and friendships that 8th grade has brought." SMS hopes you have a super Thanksgiving,



# The Story of Thanksgiving Day

## SMS takes a sneak peek into the history of thanksgiving

By Ellie Carrington and Jocelyn Markiewicz

In September 1620, a small ship called the Mayflower left Plymouth, England, carrying 102 passengers. Hoping to seek a new home where they could be free to practice



their faith and other individuals lured by the promise of prosperity and land ownership. After a very uncomfortable crossing that lasted about 66 long days, they dropped the anchor near the tip of Cape Cod. In 1621, Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn feast that is known as Thanksgiving.

Today Americans celebrate Thanks-

giving by getting a whole bunch of pies and turkey and mashed potatoes and gravy. They make food, and it's delicious. You also get to enjoy family time and time with friends and pets! Together as a big happy group, some families go outdoors to play soccer or football or kickball. Other families stay inside to play board games. No matter what you do, everyone enjoys the special day we call Thanksgiving!

# The Big Florida Rivals Face Off

## UF faces FSU on the Saturday after Thanksgiving

By Peyton Hoffman

UF and FSU rival each other on Saturday, November 26, 2016 at Bobby Bowden field at Doak Campbell Stadium, Tallahassee, Florida. The UF Gators have won 34 games against the Seminoles, and the Noles have won 24 in the series. There have been 2 ties. The channels you can watch

them rival off on this year are ESPN, CBS sports, tons of radio shows. You can watch ESPN, CBS or tune in. It is going to be a good game because both are strong teams. The Florida State Seminoles won the last match, and the final score was 21 to 7 in Gainesville.

They have been playing each other

since 1958 on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, rivaling each other with both having a good chance of winning.

**8th Graders were asked who they will root for this year. Here are the results:**

<b>UF</b>	<b>FSU</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>28</b>

# Hottest Holiday Gifts of 2016!

By Olivia Bordeaux

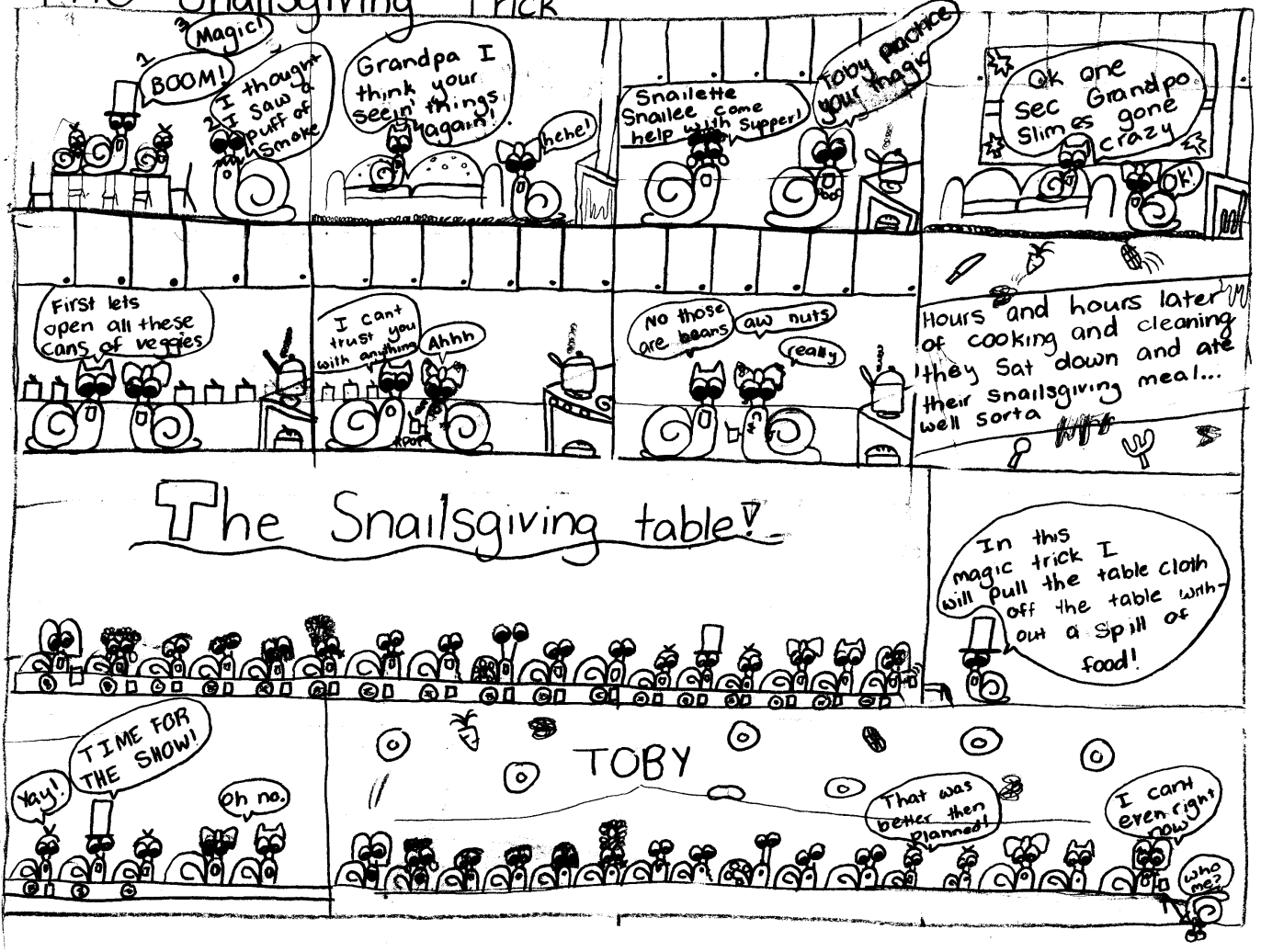
Every day inventors, and frankly, scientists, are coming up with new toys or electronics that can be used as Christmas, Hanukah or other holiday gifts. The three hottest gifts for 2016 are electronics, clothes and outdoor toys. When we polled a mix of 6th and 7th graders, 53% of them wanted electronics for holiday gifts this year. Whether an iPhone 7 or a hoverboard,

most of them wanted electronics. Around 13% of these students wanted outdoor toys for the holidays. It could be a bike or a skateboard, or anything else that has that has to do with activities outdoors or sports. This shows that outdoor toys are not nearly as popular when compared to how many people wanted electronics. Another 16% wanted clothes as gifts this year. Shirts, jeans, practically any-

thing that has to do with clothes.



## The Snailsgiving "Trick" By: Quinn McGann & Elle Strickland



### The Snailsgiving table!

1 BOOM! Magic!

2 I thought I saw a puff of smoke

Grandpa I think your seein' things again!

hehe!

Snaillette Snaillette come help with supper!

Toby practice your magic

Ok one sec Grandpa. Slimes gone crazy

First lets open all these cans of veggies

I cant trust you with anything Ahhh

No those are beans aw nuts really

Hours and hours later of cooking and cleaning they sat down and ate their snailsgiving meal... well sorta

In this magic trick I will pull the table cloth off the table with out a spill of food!

Yay! TIME FOR THE SNOW!

Oh no.

TOBY

That was better then planned

I cant even right now!

who me?



## The Snailsgiving Trick: A Short Story

By Elle Strickland

As Snaillette and Snailee finished setting the table, Snailee's mom walked out in a fancy new Thanksgiving dress that she bought a week ago.

"Looking good, Mrs. Snailman," Snaillette said politely, as she straightened the corner of the tablecloth.

"Thank you, girls. Thanks for setting the table. It really helped out."

"No problem," Snailee said, and placed a paper cup on the table near a platter.

"And it was a good idea to use paper utensils instead of the glass. The boys' magic show might not turn out well," Mrs. Snailman sighed.

"It's Okay." Snaillette said. "I'm sure everything will be fine." Snaillette assured her. Mrs. Snailman nodded through a thank you. But as she turned the corner, Snailee looked at Snaillette and said, "Hopefully."

About 45 minutes later, all of Snailee's and Snaillette's relatives were happily chatting along the table. So were Snaillette and Snailee. "I hope the boys don't mess this up," Snaillette said nervously.

"I know," Snailee croaked, as the

moms and grandmothers placed platters of traditional, fancy food on the table. After all the delicious food (not including Snailmette and Grandma's "famous" veggie meatloaf) was passed out, the girls noticed three little snails slithering to the table. One, the tallest, was wearing a tall magicians' hat. The two other boys had rainbow caps with a tiny propeller on the top. (Snailee's twin brothers)

"BOOM!" Toby, (Snaillette's little brother) screamed in amazement as the twins, Dippy and Mikey, smiled happily.

"I thought I saw a puff of smoke!" Grandpa Slime yelled, and clapped for Toby.

"The Terrific Toby shall now do the amazing tablecloth trick!" He announced proudly as he stood on the table, grabbing the corner of the tablecloth. As the girls, moms and grandmothers covered their eyes, Toby tightly pulled the corner.

"Oh no!" The cloth slid as Snailmette's grandmother's meatloaf flew to the ceiling, along with the potatoes. The turkey, strawberry fluff, and roast pig flew into the dads' faces. Splat! In seconds they were covered in mashed turkey, pig, and pink blobs. The potatoes landed on Grandpa Slime,

(Snailee's grandpa). The disgusting meatloaf hit the ceiling above the girls, sprinkling everyone with bits of meat, and chopped peas and carrots. The pumpkin pie slid along the table and hit Gary and Snail Bob! (Gary is Snaillette's brother and Snail Bob is a loner). Homemade chicken was soon atop the girls' faces. No one was amused.

"Beans!" Grandpa Slime said angrily.

Snailmette, (Snaillette's older sister) had already fled off before the show and came back with a horrified look on her face. "OMG! What happened to grandma and my famous meatloaf?! I can't even...!?" She shrieked. E

Everyone was spewing smoke out of their ears, as they all turned to the end of the table. But, at the end of the table where Toby looked mortified, Mikey and Dippy were clapping and smiling wildly. "That was even better than we practiced!" they squealed.

"Well," the girls both said with reluctant smiles, "Happy Snailsgiving, everyone!"

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## The Amazing Turkey: A Short Story

By Joshua Bulluck and Jacson Romanski

Once there were twelve turkeys on a farm, and the turkeys always got taken away on one day each year. But there was one turkey that could never be found, and every person wanted to buy that turkey. That turkey was the biggest and the coolest. All of the other turkeys were always jealous. But when all of the customers would come

look for that one turkey, he was always gone.

One day the farmer put a camera out by the turkey pen, and he found out that the turkey was hiding in a hole that was dug by a wolf. When the customers came to look for the turkey, the farmer said, "wait a minute. Let me get the gorgeous turkey!" He looked in the wolf hole, and there was no turkey. So he checked the camera

again, and it was broken. He checked the last bit of footage. The turkey had taken his beak and smashed the camera lens.

So he finally put up a new camera up overnight, and he watched the footage the next day. He found out the turkey had jumped the fence, and was living in the wild. What an amazing turkey!

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# Holidays on the Water?

By Peyton Hoffman

Do you need something to do around the holidays? Well, a boat parade might be just what you need to get you in the holiday spirit!



This is a picture of people on a Christmas boat float going around having a parade to share the Christmas spirit.

LOCATION	DATE	TIME
1. St. Pete beach	12/2	6pm
2. Maderia Beach	12/7	6:30pm
3. Boca Ciega Bay	12/10	6pm
4. IRB	12/15	7pm
5. Redington Beach	12/23	6pm

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## 25 Thanksgiving Life Hacks

By Brandi Colliver

1. Cook your turkey in a Crock Pot.
  2. Wrap a bowl of vegetables in aluminum foil and steam them in the dishwasher!
  3. Instead of washing potatoes, run them through the rinse cycle in the dishwasher!
  4. Spray paint autumn leaves red, gold, silver, or white and write people's names on them with Sharpie for Thanksgiving guests!
  5. Make macaroni and cheese in a rice cooker to save time!
  6. Buy a pumpkin and carve it so it's hollow. Then, fill it with flowers for a beautiful centerpiece!
  7. Making biscuits? Use an upside-down wine glass for perfect circles!
  8. If you can't open that jar of cranberry jam, use duct tape.
  9. Turn a pot handle into a spoon holder by using aluminum foil.
  10. Carve out a small opening into gourds and place a little candle inside.
  11. During the big game, use a can opener to turn cans into cups!
  12. Make your stuffing in a muffin pan for easier serving!
  13. Freeze rolled-out pie crusts so that they hold their shape in the oven.
  14. Add a little baking powder to mashed potatoes for extra fluffiness!
  15. Use a bead necklace to make a cool pie crust design.
  16. Slow roast your turkey in the oven the night before.
  17. If you're making apple pie, cut up the apples and store them in cold water beforehand so that they don't get brown!
  18. Chop up and store your vegetables in covered containers the night before to save time!
  19. Grate frozen butter straight into the pie or biscuit dough: It will keep them flaky!
  20. If you boil your potatoes whole, the skin comes right off!
  21. For an easy dessert, halve an apple, cut out the inside, pour caramel inside, and freeze. Then, cut the apple into slices!
  22. When you heat Thanksgiving leftovers, space out a circle in the middle; it will heat up more evenly in the microwave.
  23. Write out recipes and tape them to your cabinets for easy access while cooking!
  24. You can add a little soy sauce to gravy to enhance the flavor if you want!
  25. Ice down the turkey's breast before roasting so that it won't dry out.
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