



2024-  
2025 SY

# Thorntonian

Issue  
#8



The Official Newspaper of T.F. North High School  
December 17, 2024

Aidan Jordan, Editor-in-Chief

## Do not give in to the pressures of final exams EDITORIAL

As we move toward the end of the year, we are getting ready for the beginning of a fresh and brand-new one. We should take a moment and reflect on everything that has happened in these short 365 days of the year. More importantly, we should focus on all the positive aspects of the year and take that into the next one. Although this is the end of the year, there are still the semester final exams. Being a senior I know it can be a little overwhelming. Do not stress about it too much. As long as you study and prepare for the final, you should be fine. Try asking your teacher for extra help in the class or try going to the homework center and working on a study guide. What always worked best for me was going to my teacher and asking for extra help with whatever I was struggling with. Keep in mind that your teachers are there to help you, do not be afraid to ask for help. Once you have gotten through finals, then you can enjoy the holidays and winter break. I know saying that this time of the year is “magical” is a cliché, but I truly believe that this time of the year is probably one of the best. I cannot speak for everyone, but I’m sure people would agree that the holidays at the end of the year make it all worthwhile. As a student having two weeks off from school to be able to enjoy the holidays is duly needed and a well-deserved break after finals. Additionally, I want to give a shout-out to all the students and staff who participated in our surveys and sent Letters to the Editor. We appreciate all of the feedback. Unfortunately, we cannot publish every response, but we definitely do value them and are excited to see more in the future. With that being said, on behalf of the Thorntonian Staff I want to wish everyone good luck with their final exams and also Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!



The Advanced Choir led by Mr. Spakowski performed at the annual concert on Dec. 12, 2024. Photo provided by the Chronoscope

Story by Marisol Nicasio, Thorntonian Staff Reporter

## TFN Music Department hosts annual winter concert Choir, color guard, and band students spread holiday cheer

On Thursday, December 12th, the T.F. North Music Department held the annual holiday concert in the A.C. Jaacks auditorium at 7 pm. Practices started at the beginning of November when both the band and choir worked hard to memorize the new songs. With a new band director, Ms. Cheers, it was a new process for some. During the weeks leading up to the concert, the performers spent most of their practices getting familiar with the auditorium and setting up for the big day. When the big night arrived, the cadet band opened and performed four songs: “Up on the Housetop,” “Jolly Old Saint Nicholas,” “Jingle Bells,” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas.” Next, the Advanced Choir and Chorale sang “Once Upon a December,” “Carol of the Bells,” “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” “Ubi Caritas,” and “The Square Root of Possible.” “This concert was amazing and one of the best experiences. As a senior doing this for the fourth and last time is just great, and I really hope people enjoyed it,” said Tammy Ogundeyi. The symphonic band performed “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch,” “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” “The Nuts and Crackers Sweet,” and “Jesus is Real.” “I had a good time playing the Christmas music and even listening to the choir sing. I love how they included a song from Home Alone, it made it feel more Christmas-like,” said senior

Fabian Rodriguez. The color guard followed and performed routines to “Mrs. Claus & Her Prancing Reindeer” and “Santa’s Reindeer.” “I’m glad that we were able to perform at the concert. We looked so cute in our costumes, and I just loved dancing in them. I am proud of how quickly we were able to put the performance together in such a short amount of time,” said senior Amari Crawford. Finishing off the night, the Men’s A Cappella group sang a cover of “Snowy Day” by Boyz II Men. As it was already a special night for all the performers, it was especially notable for choir department vice president, senior Delvin Miller. Miller was selected as one of the first-ever T.F. North Music Department students at the Illinois Music Educator Association’s All-State Festival in Peoria. “It was a wonderful night for all the music departments to come together. It is the one concert of the year we all get to perform together. I think a lot of groups really met expectations and even exceeded them. The house was packed and had a good time. I am definitely looking forward to the next one,” said Choir Director William Spakowski. “Knowing that this is my last year I felt like we did a really good job with the transitions, especially with a new band director and new members. I feel like overall it was a really good concert and am excited for what’s to come,” added senior Kyara Trejo.

### Seniors at Navy Pier

Rogelio Romero  
See how the Class of 2025 lit up the lake at Navy Pier

### Student Watchlist

Anahi Martinez  
Check out students’ favorite holiday movies

### Winter Break Traveling

Ximena Gutierrez  
Find out where the Meteors are visiting for the holidays

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## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor can be sent to our social media handles or [thorntonian@tfd215.org](mailto:thorntonian@tfd215.org).

Thank you so much for featuring me on the first page of the newest issue of the Thorntonian. I appreciate any moment where the theatre department is featured because a lot of hard work goes into anything we put out for people. So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you, and I hope you enjoyed the show!

Ikeoluwani Grace Apata, sophomore

I really like the idea of how the school newspaper now includes Spanish. It's a great way to make everyone feel welcome and not left out. By adding Spanish translations and articles, the newspaper is doing something really special. It's helping Spanish-speaking students and families feel more at home, and I think it's also teaching non-Spanish speakers about the language and culture. To me, this is a big deal because it helps break down barriers and makes the school feel more like a community. It's awesome that the school is celebrating its diversity and promoting understanding and respect. Great job to everyone involved! I hope this keeps going and inspires other schools to do the same. It's a small step that can make a big difference in creating a more inclusive and supportive school environment.

Jocelyn Gonzalez, sophomore

I wanted to let you guys know that you are appreciated and that I look forward to reading the newspaper. I love how you wrote about "The Color Purple." The play was very tiring! I danced in the play. We practiced so much. Every day was hectic, but we did it so this play can be amazing! So seeing you guys talk about the play was really good because this play deserves to be recognized more, and hopefully all of you guys got to see the play! Keep doing what you do best.

Antanise Williams, sophomore

I agree with Xiemena Gutierrez about Thanksgiving being about thankfulness toward people who have been there for you. It's always important to stop and reflect on past experiences and accomplishments, and maybe even past downfalls as well. I believe these things are notable, and it's a good thing they're included in the article. I also enjoyed the article on the Action Team's Thanksgiving dinner. As someone who was a part of the decoration, it's good to know that my hard work didn't go to waste and that people actually enjoyed it. I think it's significant that this article gives credit to all the hard work that was put in the Thanksgiving dinner.

Jamiya Morgan, sophomore

## O'Quinn joins Thorntonian Staff

Story and Photo by  
Liz Solorio, Staff Reporter



The Thorntonian welcomed a new staff member, Jakayla O'Quinn, for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year. O'Quinn transferred from Thornwood High School in late November where she previously had a journalism class. "I wrote a lot, but we didn't have a school newspaper where we would publish our stories," said O'Quinn. O'Quinn expressed her excitement for the future she has in journalism and the expansion of her writing skills. "I was surprised there weren't more sophomores, but I am excited to learn from upperclassmen." O'Quinn, the first sophomore Mr. Stephan has had on his team, wrote her first story "Last Minute Christmas Gifts" found on page 8.

## Senior class visits "Light up the Lake" at Navy Pier

Story by  
Rogelio Romero, Staff Reporter

The senior class took a field trip to Light Up the Lake at Navy Pier on December 14. Activities included axe throwing, ice sliding, riding a Ferris wheel, and visiting food courts and small shops within the pier. The Senior Board planned this event to bring together the senior class and ensure they had a fun experience. "Our aim is to create camaraderie amongst the senior class, create special memories for the senior class, and have a fun day in Chicago," said Mr. Furmanek, the sponsor of the Senior Board. Students were free to explore the pier. Many rode the ice slide. "Despite losing the race multiple times, the slides were a highlight of the trip! It was a great experience, and I can't wait to go back," said Favor Babatunde. Other students did Flyover Chicago. "I say the flyover was an amazing experience where I was able to fly around the entire city of Chicago with great musical experience while inside the 4D action where if we went in water, we got sprayed with water," said Kaleb Washington. Some also were brave enough to ride the Ferris wheel. "I have a big fear of heights, but overcoming it to get to see the beautiful view of Lake Michigan and the city of Chicago was a great experience, especially since I got to see it my friends," said Juan Villalobos. The field trip ended up being a great time for everyone, "I had a fun time walking around with friends...I think the trip was worth it despite the cold," said Dean Juarez.

## Upcoming Events

- Jan. 11 Speech Tournament @ TFN
- Jan. 14 SSC Chess Tournament
- Jan. 15 SSC Band Festival
- Jan 15. Scholastic Bowl @ TFN
- Jan. 17 Day of Service
- Jan. 17 NHS Blood Drive
- Jan.18 Girls Empowerment Conf.



2024-25

## Thorntonian Staff

### Staff Reporters:

[Ivy Finley](#)  
[Marisol Nicasio](#)  
[Jasmine Pastrana](#)  
[Gaby Barraza](#)  
[Liliana Krueger](#)  
[Luis Pelayo](#)  
[Jakayla O' Quinn](#)  
[Anahi Maritnez](#)  
[Lizbeth Solorio](#)  
[T'niya Hampton](#)

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[Rogelio Romero](#), Social Media Director  
[Ximena Gutierrez](#), Asst. Editor-in-Chief  
[Aidan Jordan](#), Editor-in-Chief

### Faculty Advisor:

[Mr. Joseph Stephan](#)

Established in 1925, the Thorntonian is produced by the Advanced Journalism students of T.F. North High School. It seeks to provide an open forum for all members of the D. 215 community. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of D. 215 unless otherwise noted.

## 2024 Final Exam Schedule and Information

### Overview:

- Exam Periods are 70 minutes in length.
- Breakfast will be available on all exam days.
- Grab and Go Lunch will be available on all exam days at specified times.
- Regular morning bus routes will remain consistent and modified routes will be arranged based on the exam schedule.
- Students should arrive at their bus stops approximately 50 -60 minutes before the start of their exam time.

### Day 1 – Wednesday, Dec. 18th

- Period 1 8:25 – 9:35 am
- Period 2 9:40 – 10:50 am
- Period 0 (EB) 10: 55 – 12:05 pm
- Make-up 12:10 – 1:10 pm (Students must arrange their own transportation)

Regular morning bus routes – No early bird routes needed

Bus dismissal routes for 10:50 am & 12:05 pm (only need for EB)

Grab and Go Lunch available at 10:50 am and 12:05 pm

### Day 2 – Thursday, Dec. 19th

- Period 5 8:25 – 9:35 am
- Period 7 9:40 – 10:50 am
- Period 6 10:55 – 12:05 pm
- Make-up 12:10 – 1:10 pm (Students must arrange their own transportation)

Regular morning bus routes – No early bird routes needed

Additional morning pick-up routes at 8:45 am for students who have 5th hour lunch

Bus dismissal routes at 10:50 am & 12:05 pm

Grab and Go Lunch available at 10:50 am and 12:05 pm

### Day 3 – Friday, Dec. 20th

- Period 3 8:25 – 9:35 am
- Period 4 9:40 – 10:50 am
- Make-up 10:55 – 11:55 pm (Students must arrange their own transportation)
- Make-up 12:00 – 1:00 pm (Students must arrange their own transportation)

Regular morning bus routes – No early bird routes needed

Additional morning pick-up routes at 8:45 am for students who have 3rd hour lunch

Bus dismissal routes at 9:35 am & 10:50 am

Grab and Go Lunch available at 9:35 am and 10:50 am

### Final Exam Expectations:

- Students will remain in class period for the entire 70 minutes.
- Final exams should be constructed so that students can finish within 60 minutes.
- Students will be allotted 5 minutes at the beginning of each exam period to review notes/study guides.
- Students will be allotted approximately 5 minutes at the end of each exam period to prepare for the next upcoming exam.

### Special Considerations:

- Semester 1 will end on Friday, December 20th. This exam schedule permits specified make-up periods on Friday, December 20th.
- In the event of school closure day on December 18th, 19th, or 20th, the make-up day will be Monday, January 6, and/or Tuesday, January 7, and/or Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

## E-Learning days to replace snow days

Story by

Luis Pelayo, Staff Reporter

District 215 has a new policy for emergency days this year. An emergency day is any day that would prevent students from attending school such as a power outage or a snow day. According to Ms. Szuba, the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, the new policy allows students to work at their own pace, and students will not have to go to school during a dangerous situation. Instead of making up an off day at the end of the year, students will be online the day of the emergency. When the superintendent decides that the situation warrants it an

e-learning day will be called. The new policy states students must sign in with an attendance link under the “recent activity” section on Schoology by 10 am on an e-learning day. Assignments will be posted by 8:30 am. If students need assistance during the day, each class has a set time when that period’s teacher will offer help. If students forget this, there will be a video regarding the policy posted on the school’s website. Students are encouraged to take their Chromebooks and chargers home daily in case an emergency day is called.

## Upcoming Spirit Days

Day 3 - Wednesday, Dec. 18th

Ugly Sweaters - Wear your ugliest sweater

Day 4 - Thursday, Dec. 19th

Trip To The North Pole - Blend in by dressing up as a reindeer or a snowman

Day 5 - Friday, Dec. 20th

White Lies - Wear a white shirt with a lie about you

## Winter Tea set for staff members

Story by

Gabriella Barraza, Staff Reporter

On December 19, 2024 Student Council will be sponsoring the annual Winter Tea for staff members. It will be held in the culinary room at 2:30 pm. The Winter Tea is a light get-together for the staff to celebrate the holiday season. There will be music, appetizers, and food. They will be serving a fruit charcuterie board, a hot cocoa bar, and more. There will also be live entertainment. The Thornton Fractional North men's A Capella group will be performing. “I feel good about performing for the Winter Tea, and I'm also excited,” said senior Delvin Miller. “I feel excited, it's a good way for young men to express themselves and share their talents,” said senior Kaleb Williams.

Emergency Day

E-learning

Teacher Availability

Early Bird 8:00 am - 8:30 am

Period 1 8:35 am - 9:05 am

Period 2 9:10 am - 9:40 am

Period 3 9:45 am - 10:15 am

Period 4 10:20 am - 10:50 am

Period 5 10:55 am - 11:25 am

Period 6 11:30 am - 12:00 pm

Period 7 12:05 pm - 12:35 pm



Ms. Galvan of the TFN Spanish Dept.  
Photo credit: Luis Pelayo

Luis Pelayo, Staff Reporter

# TFN BTS

(Behind the Scenes)

Ms. Galvan (née Ramos) teaches AP Spanish Literature and AP Spanish Language, as well as Spanish I. She wanted to teach since she was young and to follow in the footsteps of her mother. “With so many changes within the system throughout the years, my greatest motivation to continue teaching are definitely the students. As teachers, we stand in front of a class hoping to influence the students, but I believe I have learned so much from them throughout the years that they are the ones that continue to push me and motivate me to do and want more,” said Galvan. Along with teaching, she also does many extracurricular activities. She is a co-sponsor of the Dreamers Club and established the Spanish Honor Society. She helps with a majority of the Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations and events. She also is a member of the school’s Culture and Climate Committee which organizes events like Boo Night. Additionally, she works games, plays, concerts, dances, athletic study hall, detention, and homework center. Along with all she does for the school, Galvan even helps with translating the Thorntonian. “I appreciate her helping translate and fix grammar issues because it helps with my progress as a Spanish writer. I appreciate how she includes my editorials in her class,” said Ximena Gutierrez, Assistant Editor-in-Chief of the Thorntonian. “I think it’s a great thing that we’re starting because it’s representing the population that is increasing when compared to when I was in high school [at T.F. South], there wasn’t anything that was really for anybody that wasn’t an English speaker. I think it’s definitely important that we start being more inclusive and representing all students equally and giving a voice to all students to talk about their culture, express themselves, and feel like they actually have a voice in and out of the classroom,” said Galvan.

Story by Gabriella Barraza, Staff Reporter

# Where are they now?

If there is an alumnus or former teacher you want us to find, please send an email to [Thorntonian@tfd125.org](mailto:Thorntonian@tfd125.org).

Samiya Smith graduated from T.F. North in May as part of the Class of 2024. You might remember her for her artwork or being on the volleyball team and track team. Smith is currently at South Suburban working on her associate's degree. She's also on the volleyball team. “My favorite memory at T.F. North would be creating relationships with other students and teachers from class, clubs, and sports,” said Smith.

Daniel Lemus went to T.F. North for all four years of high school and graduated in 2023. You might remember Daniel for being in Meteor Productions, drama, the Student Action Team, and speech. Lemus is now attending South Suburban and is majoring in education while also working a part-time job. “One of my favorite memories at T.F. North are taking pictures for school events,” said Lemus.



Photo provided by Samiya Smith



Photo provided by Daniel Lemus

# Lit Mag hosts Books with Santa

Story and Photo by Anahi Martinez, Staff Reporter



On Friday, December 13th, Literary Magazine hosted Books with Santa from 5 to 6 pm. This event provided kids from the community with, at most, 10 books each. The staff donated several hundred books, including picture books, graphic novels, and non-fiction books. There were also activities for the kids to choose from such as coloring, writing letters, and taking pictures with Santa and his elves. The children were also given cookies and milk. “It was nice seeing the kids with Santa and handing out cookies,” said sophomore Kelvin Mendoza. Everyone could see the pure joy in the children's eyes as Santa walked into the room. Here’s a quote from the man himself, “I enjoyed the letters that the children wrote. I feel like it was a wonderful experience and a lively atmosphere...I just had a great time handing out books so they can have more literature in their life.” Sophomore Diana Martinez who worked the event added, “It gave my heart a warm, gentle feeling of nostalgia”.

Santa visited the LRC and many people mentioned how much he reminded them of senior Christian Diaz.

# STUDENT WATCHLIST HOLIDAY EDITION

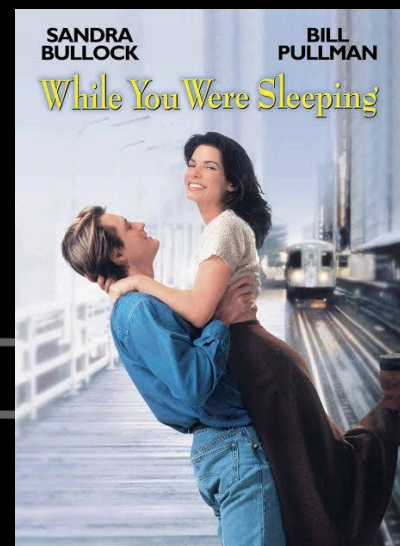
CURATED BY  
ANAHI MARTINEZ & IVY FINLEY

1



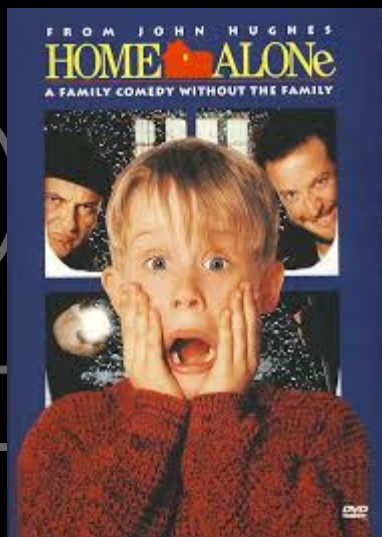
Chosen by:  
Christian Diaz

4



Chosen by:  
Diana Coronado

2



Chosen by:  
Robert Coffey

5



Chosen by:  
Pablo Espinoza

3



Chosen by:  
Elias Loza

Do you have a must-watch Valentine's Day movie?

Email your suggestions for our watchlist to [thorntonian@tfd215.org](mailto:thorntonian@tfd215.org).

Be sure to use your school email address and include your first and last names and your grade. Only school-appropriate suggestions will be accepted.

The deadline for submissions is 3:30 pm on January 15, 2025.

## 2024 Holiday Survey Curated by Rogelio Romero & Lizbeth Solorio

### What is your favorite holiday tradition that you or your family participates in?

“Going to Golden Coral and a house party to play competitive games on New Year's Day, going to this nice hotel for a party on New Year's Eve, and wrapping Christmas gifts and hiding them on Christmas Eve,” said sophomore Saniyah Scarelli.

“Going to my cousin's house for the holidays,” said sophomore Kemari Washington.

“We put up our Christmas tree the day after Thanksgiving,” said sophomore Kelis Jordan.

“Every year my mom, sister, and I all get together to make Christmas cookies to share with friends and family. Soon my kids will join and the tradition will continue,” said Ms. Csoke.

“Every year we go downtown and have dinner at the Walnut Room with my mom, brother, sister, and their families. This will be the second year we've spent the night downtown afterward. I found downtown to be magical this time of year,” said Ms. Schuldes.

“We get together and put up Christmas decorations sometimes a few days before Christmas. But when we do, we sit on the couch after and enjoy soul Christmas songs,” said sophomore Nia White.

“My favorite holiday tradition is the food that we make which are tamales and pozole, and also the music we play. A new tradition that we have is playing a game called spoons,” said senior Natalie Gonzalez.

“I love that the bigger family celebration has always been on Christmas Eve when we have a big dinner, lots of desserts, and then open presents one by one. (It does take FOREVER!) But then everybody goes home, and the next morning my kids and husband and I open our gifts to each other in pajamas around the tree. It is very peaceful,” said Ms. Desoto.

“We get together and cut a slice of the Rosca de Reyes (Three Kings bread) which is a ring-shaped bread with dried fruit and other candies on it with a couple of baby Jesuses inside of it. Whoever cuts the slice with the baby Jesus has to make food for the next event we have,” said sophomore Angel Delgado.

### If you could travel anywhere for the holidays, where would you go and why?

“I would go to either Mexico because it's very calm there, or I would go to Florida because my girlfriend moved there like three weeks ago,” said sophomore Jan Diaz.

“If I could travel anywhere for the holiday season, I would go to California because the food there is delicious and I love the state,” said junior Florah Dismuke.

“Mexico, The reason I say this is because I had never gone there and wanted to look at all traditions,” said senior Ricardo Gonzalez.

“I would travel to Mexico because I miss my family that lives there and because I overall love the environment,” said senior Dinan Delgado.

“A tropical island! I would love to spend Christmas in warm weather,” said Ms. Cook.

“Greate Wolf Lodge, it's a beautiful place and I love swimming,” said sophomore Deshontay Bryant.

“I would travel to New York or Paris because they are on my to-do list, and they are pretty,” said sophomore Juliann Allen.

“I would go to my rancho so I could spend it with my tias and tios,” said senior Brianna Astorga.

“I would have gone to New York because it's the Christmas place,” said senior Natalia Estrada.

“If I could travel anywhere for the holiday season I would go to Japan because it is really beautiful, and I would like to see all the decorations and do fun activities,” said senior Yesenia Reyes.

“I would go to Fiji and the Maldives because I don't want to be in the cold and I personally don't celebrate Christmas with my family anymore,” said sophomore Karen Ortiz.

“I would go to Mexico because of the posadas, and I would get to spend more time with family,” said senior Merlina Zavala.

### What are your favorite things about the holiday season?

“My favorite thing about the holiday season is getting into a happier, festive mood around break. I love to watch and play in the snow and do a lot of fun winter activities,” said sophomore Morgan Ragsdale.

“Watching kids smile that feel the Christmas magic, who still believe in Santa Claus,” said Mr. Faron.

“Being able to spend more time with cousins and family that live very far away,” said junior Daisy Martinez.

“My favorite things about the holiday season are the snow, winter break, and the time I get to spend with my family,” said junior Alejandro Vazquez-Nevarez.

“My favorite things about the holiday season are drinking hot chocolate, staying indoors, and traveling to warmer places,” said sophomore Taninah Sanders.

“My favorite thing about the holiday season is just being able to spend it with my family either at home ourselves or at someone's house,” said junior Jaylani Sanchez.

“The Christmas spirit! Everyone is excited for the break and for Christmas. Hot cocoa, Christmas cookies, getting together with family!” said Ms. McDaniel.

“Spending time with family, going snow tubing or to an indoor waterpark in Wisconsin Dells,” said Mr. Kawa.

“My favorite thing about the holiday is when people are kind to others. Because sometimes not all people don't have a Christmas because maybe they don't have the money for presents or they don't have any family to celebrate it with and it sad that people don't,” said sophomore Isis Ingram.

“My favorite things to do for the holidays are to give gifts and see my family. It's a time when me and my family can come together and celebrate the holidays and reminisce. I love to give out gifts because it makes me feel happy that I can make someone's day by giving them a token of my appreciation,” said sophomore Omari DaSilva.

# A (Blended) Christmas Story

Story by Lilly Krueger, Staff Reporter

I've never thought my family structure was different until I started hearing about other people's family structures. I see my dad, but I live with my mom, grandparents, and uncle. I've always felt in between and a little alone as my mom only has me, but I have three other sisters from my dad. People usually celebrate on Christmas, but I've always celebrated Christmas throughout the week. I always try to find a balance between my parents on the holidays and make time to make sure my sisters and I can do traditional holiday activities together. I've always wished I lived with my sisters because I've never experienced a Christmas morning with them and seeing them excited over Santa. I love my parents, and I wouldn't ask for anything different from them, and I will always see my sisters as a whole. Others actually have similar experiences and feelings around this time of year. Senior Marisol Nicasio also sees her siblings as just her siblings and nothing less, but holidays can be a little lonely for her. "I never really like the term 'half-siblings.' I have 3 half-siblings but always considered them as full. My family is just a blend of me and my siblings and my father. It was always so

weird during the holidays because I always felt so alone when my brothers and sister would leave to go to their fathers, while I was stuck in an unfamiliar environment where I had to face being an only child with just my mom and dad." Sophomore Michelle Zaragoza doesn't think about the fact that her siblings are only half-related. She said, "My siblings and I never really bring up the fact that we are only "half" related. I grew up with them, and I am accustomed to considering them as my 'whole' family. We spend the majority of the holidays together but sometimes we will branch off to visit our different sides of the family." Senior Samiya King has a full house on Christmas with 14 siblings. "The holidays are a bit crazy but with 14 siblings they all make it worth it. All my family is scattered, so they come from wherever and bring food. Christmas is the only event everyone tries to make it to." Teachers also have similar experiences to students as Ms. Schuldes's parents remarried by the time she was in high school and she celebrated on two different days. Schuldes said, "My parents separated and remarried by the time I was 15. On Christmas Eve, we would go with my dad to

my stepmom's and spend the night and open gifts in the morning. After being with my dad I'd go to my mom's and do Christmas with her again. I have four step sisters and one stepbrother, but I've always called them just my sisters and brother. I feel very fortunate both of my parents always got along, and my stepdad's mom took us in and adapted to me very easily always making me feel loved." Being a part of a blended family just gives you more family to love and beautiful family experiences.



# A Walk Through Peteyville

Story & Photos by Jasmine Pastrana, Staff Reporter

Peteyville is a group of houses that are decorated for the holidays every year, but this isn't any regular neighborhood display. It looks like Santa threw a Christmas party in Hammond. My mom and I visited Peteyville last weekend. The decorations were very beautiful. I loved all the colors and the blow-ups that were around the houses. There was also a little Ferris wheel there with teddy bears on it! I interviewed the creator of Peteyville, Mr. Basala, and he was nice enough to share his journey.

## Why is it called "Peteyville"?

Mr. Basala's first name is Pete, but most people call him Petey. So that is how he got Petey. Mr. Basala lives in a section in Hammond called Hessville, so that is how he got Peteyville.

## Where is Peteyville located?

It is located at 3033 Crane Place in Hammond, Indiana

## When is Peteyville open?

They are open from Thanksgiving night through New Year's Eve.

## When do they start decorating?

He mows the lawns on Halloween, and the next day they start decorating. His wife and brother help him decorate. It takes him about a couple of weeks to get everything set up.

## What inspired Peteyville?

Mr. Basala decorated with his mom when he was young, and since then it stuck with him. "I always decorated my mom's house when I was a kid. I bought this house when I got married in 1987 and started decorating and I just kind of got it like a bug and it just keeps getting bigger and bigger. You try to outdo yourself every year," said Mr. Basala.

## How many people visit Peteyville?

"It depends on the weather. If it is a really nice night close to Christmas Day, there might be about 1000 people at night. They will come by throughout the night," said Mr. Basala.

Peteyville was a lovely experience for me and my mom. We enjoyed our time looking at all the Christmas decorations and the hard work put into it. They had so many cute things there, and my mom and I will be coming by there next year to look at what they do next.



## Last-minute Christmas gift ideas from Target

Story by Jakayla O'Quinn, Staff Reporter

Lots of people around the world would love gifts for Christmas. Would you like to be very kind and give someone that you know a gift? I have 6 gifts from Target for every one of you.

Stanley cups can keep whatever liquid you have in your cup and it is going to stay cold. Stanley cups can be used by anyone. The cup even comes with a straw. This cup only costs up to \$40.

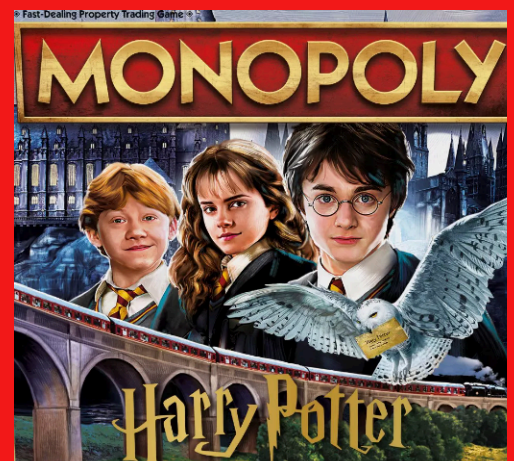
A small artificial plant from Target can be used for a house decoration or a teacher can put it in their classroom. The artificial plant is only \$6.99 with two days for shipping.

This is a new Monopoly board called a Harry Potter Monopoly. It is a board game you can play with your family or friends for \$30.

This is a handheld massager that elders can use when their body is sore. Most people say they love using it. The massager is only \$50, and it only takes up to 4 days to ship.

Want a Lego set for kids ages 7-14? There is a Lego set that is only \$13, and it is a gingerbread ornament. Building Legos as a kid was the best. You can only ship the Lego set to your house or the recipient of the gift. There is no pickup.

This Barbie is for a little girl. A little girl can act like she is playing family with the Barbie or maybe dress the Barbie up. It only costs \$17.99.



## How do you ring in the New Year?

Story by Ivy Finley, Staff Reporter

For some people, the New Year brings feelings of triumph over the past year's challenges or gratitude for the moments filled with joy. Others may have jitters for what the New Year will bring or excitement for new adventures. At TFN, News Year's Eve is not just the last day before the calendars get flipped back to the start. Many people choose to ring in the New Year with traditions that are special to them.

Ms. Emerson plans to ring in the New Year by cleaning out all the Christmas spirit and taking down her decorations. Other TFN students and staff celebrate by spending time with their loved ones. Mr. Longo will make a resolution for a positive life change before watching fireworks with his family. Ms. Csoke plans to call her mom and sister on New Year's Day. Ms. Hood plans to attend a friend's party on January 1st. "She hasn't done it in a few years, and she is bringing it back this year, so I'm excited." Akeelah Artis's family celebrates with a large party, with food, non-alcoholic mixed drinks, and black-eyed peas. Khaiyah Seay goes to her aunt's house to celebrate with her family. Either her mom or aunt cooks, and the family enjoys a meal.

One of the very best ways to celebrate any holiday is with food. Ms. Donovan's family likes to stay up until midnight for the countdown, and then eat shrimp on New Year's Day.

Ms. R. Cook will go to her mother's house for a New Year's Day brunch. She also shared the African American tradition of eating black-eyed peas to bring good luck, paired with a type of green, which can be collard greens or okra. Ms. Isberg shared the tradition of eating vasilopita. This special bread has a coin or other trinket representing good luck hidden inside. Whoever gets the slice with the hidden prize, is said to have good luck for the year.

There's also nothing wrong with making your own traditions or breaking traditions entirely. When Ms. Hood's children were younger, they would go outside after the countdown and bang pots and pans with wooden spoons. When Ms. DeSoto's kids were younger, her family and another family with young kids would host a get-together with snacks. They used to tell their children that midnight was a few hours earlier than it really was and have their own countdown.

This year, they plan to break tradition entirely by traveling out of the country.

Thorntonian staff reporter Gabby Barraza's family has a few traditions: Eating 12 grapes during the countdown; wearing colors to draw in good fortune for the new year, like wearing green to manifest money; and walking around a block with an empty suitcase to manifest travel in the New Year.

No matter what traditions you participate in, always use New Year's to reflect on what the past year brought you and what you can do to make the next year your best.





## Traveling over Winter Break

Story by Ximena Gutierrez, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Winter break is just around the corner, and travel talk is in the air at T.F. North! Staff and students are excited for their winter travels. Junior Liliana Sanchez will be flying to San Francisco, California. She will be going with her older siblings and friends. She can't wait to spend Christmas in a different city with loved ones! She is most excited to watch the iconic Nutcracker ballet. Senior Jaida Harrington will be going on a road trip. She will be going to Las Vegas, Nevada with her parents. She is excited to visit her aunt, and explore the city with her cousins. While some are staying in the country, others are traveling south to the warmer areas. Senior Krystal Covarrubias will be flying to Guadalajara, Jalisco with her siblings. Covarrubias plans on staying in her house in Zapopan, Jalisco for about two days since she has a family to spend time with and a wedding to attend. After, she will be going on a 2 hour road trip to Huitzila, Zacatecas. While she is there, she plans on spending the rest of her time celebrating New Year's. She is also looking forward to riding horses back and forth, and visiting family. "Going to Mexico is a big part of my life and gives me the opportunity to live in another world for some time. I hope to give my future kids the same experience," said Covarrubias. Sophomore Adolfo Hernandez, will also be flying with his family to Guadalajara, Jalisco. He will be staying with his grandparents for a few days to take care of them. After he is going to stay at his family's ranch. He is excited to celebrate with his family and friends over the holidays. "I am most excited to ride horses with my cousins," said Hernandez. Senior Gissell Quintero will also be traveling to Mexico. She is going to

Durango before Christmas with her older brother. She is looking forward to spending time with family and friends who she hasn't seen in a long time. After Christmas, Ms. Hood, her husband, and her two daughters will be going to Mexico City. Hood is excited to go on a trip with her daughters, as they are both half Mexican and have never visited the country! During her week there she will be going on the Xochimilco boat cruise. She is looking forward to seeing the floating gardens of Lake Xochimilco, also known as Mexico City's "Little Venice." Hood is excited to be in a "foodie" city. She has made some reservations at "cool-sounding restaurants." She also has a few other plans like visiting Frida Kahlo's neighborhood and visiting the National Museum of Anthropology. While some are going south to the warmer areas, senior Kristian Heidleberg will be going north on a road trip to Toronto, Ontario. Heidleberg is looking forward to exploring the city with his family, as it is his first time visiting Canada. Junior Areli Salgado is still unsure about where she is traveling this winter. It is her family's tradition to go on a surprise trip every Christmas. Her parents plan a trip in secret, and surprise their kids a few days before they leave. This is Salgado's favorite thing about winter break. "I love when my mom tells us to gather around to tell us the surprise location of our trip. Seeing my little siblings' excited faces always makes me happy," said Salgado. Winter break gives students a chance to visit new places. These trips also help them relax, and come back to 2025 in a relaxed state, and with different mentalities. I can't wait to hear all about everyone's fun trips when we get back!

## Churro Cheesecake Recipe

by Emily Sanchez, Art Director

Ingredients:

- Crescent Roll Dough - Two 8oz tubes
- Cream Cheese
- Granulated Sugar
- Egg
- Vanilla Extract
- Cinnamon
- Melted Butter

First, begin by opening one tube of crescent rolls. Unroll the dough onto a greased glass pan 9x13 and press the seams together to form one rectangular piece in the pan.

Next, mix cream cheese, sugar, egg, and vanilla until it is a smooth texture. Then, pour the cream cheese mixture over the crust and spread it into an even layer.

Now open your second tube of crescent rolls. Unroll it and press it into the seams together (like before) on top of the cream cheese mixture to cover the cream cheese completely. Then pour melted butter over the top and spread it into a layer. Lastly, sprinkle the top with cinnamon sugar and bake for 25-30 minutes until the top is a golden brown. Now, you are done! Enjoy.

Additional optional toppings :

- Honey
- Strawberries
- Vanilla Ice Cream
- Chocolate Sauce
- Salted Caramel
- Sliced Bananas

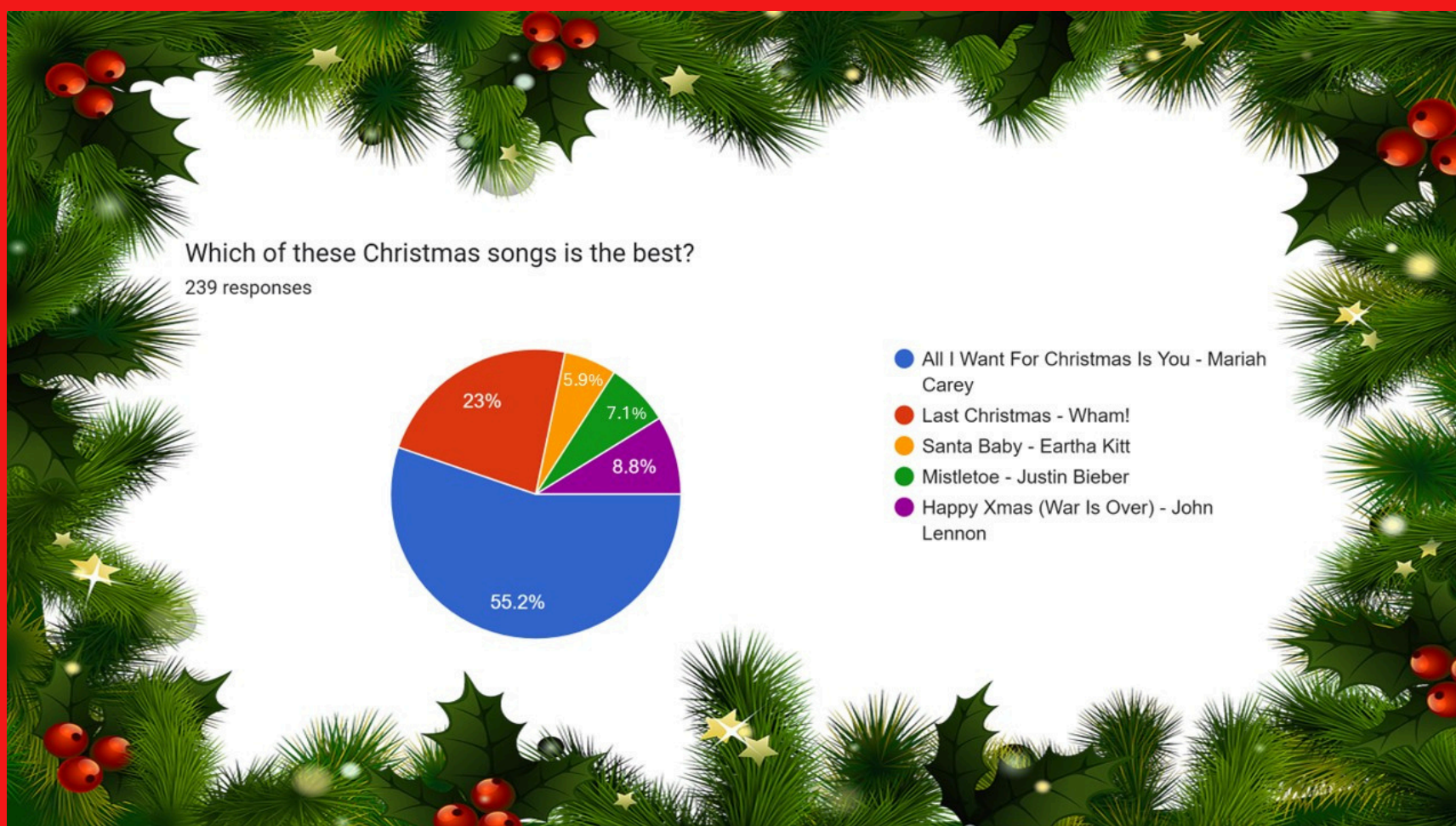




Photo from former TF North grad Jose Barraza

# HOLIDAY GUIDE

Ideas for having a cozy craft night:

Arts and crafts projects like...

- Marshmallow snowmen
- Paper snowflakes
- Hand-print painted penguins
- Winter windsocks
- Hand-print reindeer
- Paper plate Christmas masks
- Popsicle stick nutcrackers

## WINTER BREAK EDITION

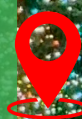
### Places to go:

**Chicago's Christmas Tree (31-minute drive)**  
**Millennium Park, Chicago, IL 60601**  
**Open 24 Hours Everyday**

**Lincoln Park ZooLights (38-minute drive)**  
**Chicago, IL 60614**  
**Monday - Sunday- 4:30 - 9 pm**  
**Friday & Saturday- 4:30 - 10 pm**  
**Tuesday - Closed**

**Santa's Rock N Lights (60-minute drive)**  
**Kane County Cougars - Geneva, IL**  
**Open now until December 31, 2024**

**Illumination: Tree Lights at The Morton Arboretum (45-min drive)**  
**The Morton Arboretum**  
**Open now until January 4, 2025**  
**4:30 pm - 9:30 pm**



Chicago Christmas Tree; photo from Jasmine Pastrana

### Snack Ideas:

- Gingerbread Truffles
- Sugar Cookies
- Reindeer Pops
- Gingerbread Muffins
- White Hot Chocolate
- Spicy Sriracha Popcorn
- Santa Pancakes

# GUEST PLAYLISTS



Curated by  
Marisol Nicasio

Happy Holidays! Here are some songs to  
get you in the Christmas spirit!

Do you have a song you would like to add to our next playlist? Email your suggestions to [thorntonian@tfd215.org](mailto:thorntonian@tfd215.org). Be sure to use your school email address and include your first and last names and your grade. Only school-appropriate suggestions will be accepted. Please limit your suggestions to 5 songs per playlist. The deadline for submissions is 3:30 pm on January 15, 2025.

Thorntonian Staff's Picks:

- "Santa Tell Me" by Ariana Grande
- "Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays" by NSYNC
- "All I Want for Christmas" by Mariah Carey

Marcia Jacobo's Picks:

- "All I Want for Christmas" by Mariah Carey
- "Underneath the Tree" by Kelly Clarkson
- "Mistletoe" by Justin Bieber

Joselyn Cervantes's Picks:

- "All I Want for Christmas" by Mariah Carey
- "Feliz Navidad" by Micheal Jackson
- "Jingle Bell Rock" by Bobby Helms

- "Snow Flower" by V & Peakboy
- "Cindy Lou Who" by Sabrina Carpenter
- "All I Want for Christmas" by Mariah Carey

Fabian Rodriguez's Picks:

- "Last Christmas" by Wham!
- "The Christmas Song" by Nat King Cole
- "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" by Andy Williams

## Viajando durante las vacaciones de invierno

Historia de Ximena Gutierrez, Jefe en editor

Las vacaciones de invierno están a la vuelta de la esquina y en T.F. North se habla mucho de viajes. El personal y los estudiantes están emocionados por sus viajes de invierno. La estudiante de tercer año Liliana Sánchez volará a San Francisco, California. Irá con sus hermanos mayores y amigos. ¡No puede esperar pasar la Navidad en una ciudad diferente con sus seres queridos! Está muy emocionada por ver el icónico ballet Cascanueces. La estudiante de último año Jaida Harrington hará un viaje por carretera. Irá a Las Vegas, Nevada con sus padres. Está emocionada de visitar a su tía y explorar la ciudad con sus primos. Mientras algunos se quedan en el campo, otros viajan al sur, a una zona más cálida. La estudiante de último año Krystal Covarrubias volará a Guadalajara, Jalisco, con sus hermanos. Covarrubias planea quedarse en su casa en Zapopan, Jalisco, durante unos 2 días, ya que tiene una familia con la que pasar tiempo y una boda a la que asistir. Después, hará un viaje por carretera de 2 horas a Huitzila, Zacatecas. Mientras esté allí, planea pasar el resto de su tiempo celebrando el Año Nuevo. También está ansiosa por montar a caballo de ida y vuelta y visitar a su familia. “Ir a México es una gran parte de mi vida y me da la oportunidad de vivir en otro mundo por un tiempo. Espero darles a mis futuros hijos la misma experiencia”, dijo Covarrubias. El estudiante de segundo año Adolfo Hernández también volará con su familia a Guadalajara, Jalisco. Se quedará con sus abuelos durante unos días para cuidarlos. Después, se quedará en el rancho de su familia. Está emocionado de festejar con su familia y amigos durante las vacaciones. “Estoy muy emocionada de montar a caballo con mis primos”, dijo Hernández. Gissell Quintero, estudiante de último año, también viajará a México. Irá a Durango antes de Navidad con su hermano

mayor. Está ansiosa por pasar tiempo con familiares y amigos que no ha visto en mucho tiempo. Después de Navidad, la Sra. Hood, su esposo y sus dos hijas irán a la Ciudad de México. La Sra. Hood está emocionada de ir de viaje con sus hijas, ya que ambas son mitad mexicanas y nunca han visitado el país. Durante su semana allí, irá en el crucero en barco por Xochimilco. Está ansiosa por ver los jardines flotantes del lago Xochimilco, también conocido como la “pequeña Venecia” de la Ciudad de México. ¡La Sra. Hood está emocionada de estar en una ciudad “comestible”! ¡Ha hecho algunas reservaciones en “restaurantes que suenan geniales”! También tiene algunos otros planes como visitar el barrio de Frida Kahlo y visitar el Museo Nacional de Antropología. Mientras que algunos van al sur, a las áreas más cálidas, Kristian Heidleberg, estudiante de último año, irá al norte en un viaje por carretera a Toronto, Ontario. Heidleberg está ansioso por explorar la ciudad con su familia, ya que es la primera vez que visita Canadá. ¡Arelí Salgado, estudiante de tercer año, todavía no está segura de a dónde viajará este invierno! Es tradición de su familia hacer un viaje sorpresa cada Navidad. Sus padres planean un viaje en secreto y sorprenden a sus hijos unos días antes de partir. Esto es lo que más le gusta a Salgado de las vacaciones de invierno. “Me encanta cuando mi mamá nos dice que nos reunamos para contarnos el lugar sorpresa de nuestro viaje. Ver las caras emocionadas de mis hermanos pequeños siempre me hace feliz”, dijo Salgado. Las vacaciones de invierno les dan a los estudiantes la oportunidad de visitar nuevos lugares. Estos viajes también les ayudan a relajarse y regresar al 2025 en un estado relajado y con una mentalidad diferente. ¡No puedo esperar a escuchar sobre los divertidos viajes de todos cuando regresemos!

Aidan Jordan, Jefe en editor

## No hay que rendirse a las presiones de los exámenes finales

### EDITORIAL

A medida que nos acercamos al final del año, nos estamos preparando para el comienzo de uno nuevo y fresco. Deberíamos tomarnos un momento y reflexionar sobre todo lo que ha sucedido en estos cortos 365 días del año. Más importante aún, deberíamos centrarnos en todos los aspectos positivos del año y llevarlos al siguiente. Aunque este es el fin del año, todavía quedan los exámenes finales del semestre. Como soy estudiante de último año, sé que puede ser un poco abrumador. No te estreses tanto por eso, mientras estudies y te prepares, vas a estar bien. Intenta pedirle ayuda adicional a tu maestro en la clase o intenta ir al centro de tareas y trabajar en una guía de estudio. Lo que siempre funcionó mejor para mí fue ir a mi maestro y pedirle ayuda adicional con lo que estaba batallando. Ten en cuenta que tus maestros están allí para ayudarte, no tengas miedo de pedir ayuda. Ya que hayas superado los exámenes finales, podrás disfrutar de los días festivos y las vacaciones de invierno. Sé que decir que esta época del

año es “mágica” es muy típico, pero creo sinceramente que es probablemente una de las mejores. No puedo hablar por todos, pero estoy seguro de que la gente estará de acuerdo en que las vacaciones de fin de año hacen que todo valga la pena. Como estudiante, tener dos semanas libres de la escuela para poder disfrutar de los días festivos es algo muy necesario y un descanso merecido después de los exámenes finales. Además, quiero agradecer a todos los estudiantes y al personal que participaron en nuestras encuestas y enviaron cartas al editor. Agradecemos todos los comentarios. Lamentablemente, no podemos publicar todas las respuestas, pero definitivamente las valoramos y estamos emocionados de ver más en el próximo futuro. Dicho esto, en nombre del personal de Thorntonian, quiero desearles a todos buena suerte con los exámenes finales y también felices fiestas y feliz año nuevo.

## ¿Cómo se recibe el Año Nuevo?

Historia de Ivy Finley, Editora & Traducida por Lizbeth Solrio, Editora

Para algunas personas, el Año Nuevo trae sentimientos de triunfo sobre los desafíos del año pasado o gratitud por los momentos llenos de alegría. Otros pueden tener nerviosismo por lo que traerá el Año Nuevo o entusiasmo por nuevas aventuras. En TFN, la Nochevieja no es solo el último día antes de que los calendarios vuelvan al principio. Muchas personas eligen celebrar el Año Nuevo con tradiciones que son especiales para ellos. La Señora Emerson planea recibir el Año Nuevo limpiando todo el espíritu navideño y quitando sus decoraciones. Otros estudiantes y personal de TFN celebran pasando tiempo con sus seres queridos. El Señor Longo tomará una resolución para un cambio positivo en su vida antes de ver los fuegos artificiales con su familia. La Señora Csoke planea llamar a su mamá y a su hermana el día de Año Nuevo. La Señora Hood planea asistir a una fiesta de su amiga el primero de enero. “No lo ha hecho en algunos años y lo traerá de vuelta este año, así que estoy emocionada”. La familia de Akeelah Artis celebra con una gran fiesta, con comida, bebidas mixtas sin alcohol, y guisantes de ojo negro. Khaiyah Seay va a la casa de su tía para celebrar con su familia. Su mamá o su tía cocinan y la familia disfruta de la comida. Una de las mejores formas de celebrar cualquier día festivo es con comida. A la familia de la Señora Donovan le gusta quedarse despierta hasta medianoche y luego comerse camarones el día de Año Nuevo. La Señora Cook irá a la casa de su madre para un brunch el día de Año Nuevo. También compartió la tradición afroamericana de comer guisantes de ojo negro para traer buena suerte, combinados con un tipo de verduras, que puede ser col rizada o okra. La señora Isberg compartió la tradición de comer vasilopita. Este pan especial tiene escondida en su interior una moneda o otra baratija que representa la buena suerte. Quien obtenga la porción con el premio escondido, se dice que tendrá buena suerte para el año. Tampoco hay nada de malo en crear sus propias tradiciones o romperlas por completo. Cuando los hijos de la Señora Hood eran más pequeños, salían después de la cuenta regresiva y golpeaban ollas y sartenes con cucharas de madera. Cuando los hijos de la Señora Desoto eran más pequeños, su familia y otra familia con niños pequeños organizaban una reunión con refrigerios. Solían decirles a sus hijos que la medianoche era unas horas antes de lo que realmente era y tenían su propia cuenta regresiva. Este año planean romper por completo con la tradición y viajar fuera del país. La familia de la reportera de Thorntonian, Gabby Barraza, tiene algunas tradiciones: comer 12 uvas durante la cuenta regresiva; usar colores para atraer buena suerte para el nuevo año, como vestir de verde para manifestar dinero; y caminar alrededor de su cuadra con una maleta vacía para manifestar viajes en el nuevo año. Sin importar las tradiciones en las que participe, siempre aprovecha el Año Nuevo para reflexionar sobre lo que le trajo el año pasado y lo que puede hacer para que el próximo año sea el mejor.

## Encuesta de Vacaciones 2024

Historia de Rogelio Romero & Lizbeth Solorio Traducida por Lilly Krueger

### ¿Cuál es tu tradición navideña favorita en la que participa tu familia?

“Ir a Golden Coral y una fiesta en casa para jugar juegos competitivos el día de Año Nuevo, ir a un hotel lindo en noche vieja y envolver regalos de Navidad y esconderlos cada Nochebuena,” dijo el estudiante de segundo año Saniyah Sacrelli.

“Ir a la casa de mis primos para una fiesta festiva,” dijo el estudiante de segundo año Kemari Washington.

“Poner el árbol de Navidad el día después Día de Acción de Gracias” dijo el estudiante de segundo año Kelis Jordan.

“Cada año mi mamá, hermana, y yo nos juntamos para hacer galletas Navideñas para repartir con nuestros familiares y amigos. Pronto mis hijos van a continuar la tradición,” dijo Sra. Csoke.

“Cada año vamos al centro y a cenar en el Walnut Room con mi mamá, hermano, hermana, y sus familias. Este es el segundo año que nos quedamos la noche después en el centro. He encontrado que el centro se me hace muy mágico en este tiempo,” dijo Sra. Schuldes.

“Nos juntamos y ponemos decoraciones navideñas unos días antes de Navidad. Pero cuando lo hacemos nos sentamos en el sofá y escuchamos canciones navideñas del alma,” dijo estudiante del segundo año Nia White.

Mi tradición festiva favorita es la comida que hacemos, como tamales, pozole, y también la música que ponemos. Una nueva tradición es un juego que se llama Spoons,” dijo senior Natalie Gonzalez.

“Amo que la celebración más grande siempre ha sido en Nochebuena cuando tenemos una cena grande, muchos postres, y abrimos regalos uno por uno. (¡Que dura PARA SIEMPRE!) Después todos se van a sus casas y la mañana siguiente mis hijos, mi esposo y yo abrimos nuestros regalos en nuestras pijamas alrededor del árbol. Es muy tranquilo,” dijo Sra. Desoto.

“Nos juntamos y cortamos la Rosca de Reyes. La rosca es un pan en forma de un anillo con fruta seca y dulces y por dentro hay unos cuantos bebés de Jesucristo. El que le toca el pedazo con el bebé le toca hacer comida para el siguiente evento que tenemos,” dijo el estudiante del segundo año Angel Delgado.

### ¿Cuáles son tus cosas favoritas de la temporada Navideña?

“Mi cosa favorita de la temporada navideña es tener un ambiente más festivo y feliz durante las vacaciones. Me encanta ver y jugar en la nieve y hacer actividades de invierno,” dijo el estudiante de segundo año Morgan Ragsdale.

“Viendo niños sonreír: los que sienten la magia de la Navidad, y los que todavía creen en Santa Claus,” dijo Sr. Faron.

“Poder pasar más tiempo con mis primos y familia que viven muy lejos,” dijo Junior Daisy Martinez.

“Mis cosas favoritas de la temporada Navideña es la nieve, las vacaciones, y el tiempo con mi familia,” dijo junior Alejandra Vazquez-Nevarez.

“Mis cosas favoritas de la temporada navideña es tomar chocolate, quedarme en casa, y viajar a lugares más calientes,” dijo estudiante del segundo año Taninah Sanders.

“Mis cosas favoritas de la temporada navideña es solo pasar tiempo en la casa de mis familiares o en mi casa,” dijo junior Jaylani Sanchez.

“¡El espíritu Navideño! Todos están muy felices para las vacaciones navideñas. Chocolate caliente, galletas navideñas, y juntarse con la familia!” dijo Sra. McDaniel.

“Pasar tiempo con familia, ir ‘snow tubing’ o ir a un parque acuático en Wisconsin Dells,” dijo Sr. Kawa.

“Mi cosa favorita de la temporada festiva es cuando gente es amable hacia otros. Porque a veces no todos pueden tener una Navidad porque no tienen dinero para regalos o porque no tienen familia para celebrar, y me da tristeza que gente no tiene estas cosas,” dijo estudiante del segundo año Isis Ingram.

“Mi cosa favorita de hacer para la temporada navideña es dar regalos y ver a mi familia. Es un tiempo donde mi familia se puede juntar y celebrar las fiestas y recordar. A mí me encanta dar regalos porque me hace sentir bien que puedo hacer el día de alguien por darle una muestra de mi agradecimiento,” dijo estudiante del segundo año Omari DaSilva.

## Una Historia de Navidad (Mixta)

Historia de Lilly Krueger

Nunca pensé que mi estructura familiar fuera diferente hasta que empecé a escuchar sobre las estructuras familiares de otras personas. Veo a mi padre, pero vivo con mi mamá, mis abuelos y mi tío. Siempre me he sentido en medio y un poco sola ya que mi madre solo me tiene a mí, pero de lado de mi padre, tengo tres hermanas. La gente usualmente celebra el día de Navidad pero yo celebro la Navidad durante toda la semana. Siempre trato de encontrar un equilibrio entre mis padres durante las vacaciones y hacer tiempo para asegurar que mis hermanas y yo podamos hacer actividades juntas. Siempre he querido vivir con mis hermanas porque nunca he experimentado una mañana de Navidad con ellas y verlas emocionadas por Santa Claus. Amo a mis padres y no les pediría nada diferente. Siempre veré a mis hermanas como hermanas solamente, no medias hermanas. Hay más personas que comparten estas experiencias y sentimientos durante esta temporada. Senior, Marisol Nicasio, también ve a sus hermanos como solo sus hermanos y nada menos, pero las vacaciones pueden ser un poco solitarias para ella. “Nunca me ha gustado el término ‘medios hermanos’. Tengo tres medios hermanos, pero siempre los he considerado hermanos completos. Mi familia es solo una mezcla de mis hermanos, mi padre y de mí. Siempre era tan extraño durante las vacaciones porque me sentía tan sola cuando mis hermanos y mi hermana se iban con sus padres, mientras yo estaba atrapada en un ambiente desconocido que yo tendría que enfrentar al ser hija única con solo mi madre y padre”. Otra estudiante, Michelle Zaragoza del segundo año, no le gusta pensar en el hecho de que sus hermanas son solo medias hermanas. Ella dijo “Mis hermanas y yo nunca mencionamos el hecho de que solo somos ‘medias’ hermanas. Crecí con ellas, y estoy acostumbrada a considerarlas como mi familia ‘completa’. Pasamos la mayoría de las vacaciones juntas, pero a veces nos vamos a visitar a nuestros distintos lados de la familia”. Senior Samiya King tiene una casa llena en Navidad con catorce hermanos, “Las vacaciones son un poco locas, pero con catorce hermanos todos hacen que valga la pena. Toda mi familia está dispersa, así que vienen de donde sea y traen comida. La Navidad es el único evento al que todos intentan ir”. Los maestros también tienen experiencias similares a las de los estudiantes, ya que los padres de la Sra. Schuldes se volvieron a casar cuando ella tenía quince años y ahora celebra dos días con sus padres. Schuldes dijo, “Mis padres se separaron y para cuando yo tenía quince años, ya se habían vuelto a casar. En Nochebuena, íbamos con mi padre a casa de mi madrastra y pasábamos la noche ahí y habríamos los regalos en la mañana. Después de estar con mi padre, iba a casa de mi madre y volvía a celebrar Navidad con ella. Tengo cuatro hermanastras y un hermanastro, pero siempre los llamaré mis hermanos. Me siento muy afortunada de que mis padres siempre se llevarán bien, y la madre de mi padrastro nos acogió y se adaptó a mí muy fácilmente, siempre haciéndome sentir amada.” Ser parte de una familia mixta solo te da más familia para amar y más hermosas experiencias familiares.

*Feliz Navidad*