
TORNADO TIMES

DECEMBER 22, 2021



Letter From the Editors

**Mr. Ryan Fitzsimmons
and Ms. Jennifer Jones**

Welcome to the third issue of the Tornado Times! We want to thank our school community for all of the support of Tornado Times in our first two issues. Our writers have been working hard. Special thanks to Chloe Sisskind for the photography.

As our winter break approaches, we hope that you use the time to relax and recharge. Breaks are a great opportunity to spend quality time with friends and family, do some fun things, and catch up on extra sleep. Enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and we will see you in January. We hope you enjoy this latest issue.



Greetings From the Superintendent

By Mr. Jeffrey White



December is a month filled with a break, holidays and observances of many different traditions both old and new. Some are time honored such as the religious holidays of Christmas and Hanukkah, the secular holiday of New Year's Eve and the ancient winter solstice celebration. Other newer holidays include Kwanzaa, created in 1966 to celebrate African-American culture, and Newtonmas, a humorous holiday to celebrate

the birth of the great physicist and mathematician Sir Isaac Newton. People celebrate by singing physics carols and exchanging math and science books.

Whatever holiday(s) you celebrate, let us remember the purpose is to nurture us and our relationships. We are social creatures by nature; it is in our DNA. Aside from wanting each other's camaraderie and companionship, we need one another. Our holiday traditions bring us together. They strengthen our bonds with each other. Our past, present and future give us a sense of belonging, connecting our ancestors to us and to our descendants. The holidays are a fun and festive time of year, a time for feasts, celebrations, sharing and expressions of profound love. Whatever holidays you celebrate, may

your holiday season be filled with joy, togetherness and peace. If you do not celebrate any holidays, just relax with family and friends while making great memories. Enjoy the December recess. We wish you a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing each and every one of you in 2022.

Happy Holidays everyone!



Words of Wisdom to the Students of GFB

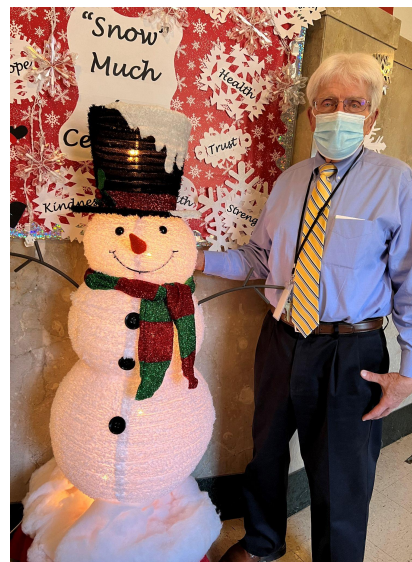
By Mr. Roy Reese, GFB Principal

In a few days, we will share what I believe to be the “best break” from school all year. I

am sure many students will disagree and perhaps even argue that summer vacation is their favorite time. As an educator since 1840 (lol), I am not a huge fan of a 10-week summer vacation and remain steadfast that Winter Break is more educationally sound.

It comes at a point when a time off from school is needed and helps us transition to Winter. It is the time to enjoy family and friends and is “just long enough”.

It is my wish for you that you have a happy, peaceful, relaxing and safe vacation.



Letter from the Guidance Department

By Mrs. Christine Oliva

A big THANK YOU to Dr. David Kaufer, Mrs. Joann Martin, Ms. Jennifer Jones, Mrs. Christine Oliva, Mrs. Anne Castellanos and Student Council for assisting in wrapping boxes to collect toys throughout the Tuxedo Community.



This was our 11th Annual Tuxedo Community Toy Drive from November 18th through December 16th. We collected so

many presents. Thank you for all the support!



The Guidance and Transportation Offices are busy this holiday season delivering items to our local Tuxedo families in need. St. Mary's Church in Tuxedo has generously donated gift cards.

7th & 8th Grade Board Game Club @ GFB Library

By Mrs. Christine Oliva

Join us for some fun! 7th and 8th grade students are welcome to sign-up for the GFB Board Game Club during their enrichment period. The Board Game Club will be held daily in the GFB Library for students to

come and have some fun playing everything from Uno to Chess.



Library Community Connection

By Ms. Valerie Mui

Tuxedo Park Library Hosted GFB Students for *Roxy* Book Tour Event

New York Times bestselling author of *Dry* and *Unwind*, Neal Shusterman held a virtual book tour to promote his latest book *Roxy*. This latest release was co-authored with his son, Jarrod Shusterman, who also joined the conversation.

Kara Gemian, Tuxedo Park Library's Youth Services Coordinator, invited upperclassmen from George F. Baker High School for a viewing party held at Tuxedo Park Library. Students across the Ramapo Catskill Library System joined both Shustermans on a Zoom call on Nov 15 to learn more about *Roxy*.

Roxy centers around siblings Isaac and Ivy. Isaac is prescribed Roxicodone after a sports related injury and finds himself dependent on the drug. Ivy manages her ADD with Adderall. Both siblings turn to "Roxy" and "Addi" down a path of destruction that leads to a tragic end.

Both Shustermans shared that *Roxy* was inspired by the current opioid crisis. They believed the idea of having drugs personified by gods was a

unique addition to the conversation.

“This virtual book tour was an enlightening experience that took students on a literary journey, opening their minds to the opioid crisis. This father and son pair taught students the importance of working together, communicating, and ultimately how overcoming obstacles will always be a part of life. Together they have created a masterpiece that highlights a significant social issue, from a unique and engaging perspective, and chose to share their journey with our students, giving them the opportunity to ask questions, and dig deeper into the content,” said Ms.

Elmendorf.

At the conclusion of the event, a copy of *Roxy* was raffled off by Tuxedo Park Library and was awarded to Junior Valerie V.

“It was a great experience for some of our upperclassmen to listen to this father/son duo answer questions regarding their writing styles, inspiration, and process, as well as the premise for their new book, *Roxy*,” said Ms. Hines.

Thank you to Ramapo Catskill Library System and Orange Library Association for sponsoring the event. Thank you also to Ms. Gemian at Tuxedo Park Library for the hospitality, and of course, the pizza.



“Craftivity” at the Library

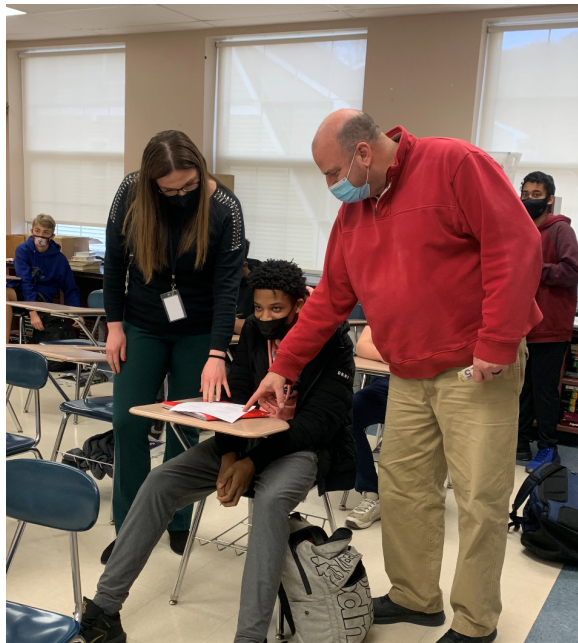
Students have been enjoying making snowflakes in the Library. Want to make one? Visit the George F. Baker

Library Media Center and make a 3-D snowflake for you to take home!



Geometry and Algebra I

By Ms. Courtney Elmendorf and Mr. Thomas Reilly



This was an exciting month for Ms. Elmendorf and Mr. Reilly's Geometry class. We conquered the "PROOFS." Students learned about mathematical theorems and postulates that can be used to write a thoughtful mathematical argument known as a proof. Additionally, we worked with triangle congruence theorems to determine how to prove that two triangles are in fact congruent to one another. This taps into student's ability to think critically and analyze mathematical diagrams and pictures. In Algebra, we are working with the concept of "SLOPE." We are learning how to calculate slope graphically and algebraically and taking that concept further to write the equation of linear functions. We have also learned that linear equations are a characteristic property when it comes to slope.

Linear functions are the only functions that have a constant rate of change. Looking forward to seeing what next month holds. We wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season :)

Music Department

By Mr. Clayton Chan



On the night of Tuesday, December 14th, the GFB Music Department performed their annual Winter Concert. The students put on a show to remember featuring a wide array of pieces. Songs from popular artists such as The Killers and Queen were performed along with classical, and jazz selections. Elena Haimerl (6th grade) performed

an original piece on piano and vocals. The combined Symphonic Orchestra and High School Choir performed "Wait For Me" from the Broadway musical Hadda Hadda to close out the show. This piece featured solos both vocally and instrumentally from Ted Heavner (12th grade), Emily Brito (10th grade), and Grace Donnelly (11th grade). Not only was the performance of the music a great success, but the presentation was of professional status. The attention to detail throughout the entire production made for an astounding night at George F. Baker. This could not have been done without Dominik Cichon (10th grade) at the helm for sound mix, Marvin Chavez-Granillo (12th grade) with light design and operation, and Valerie Velazquez (11th

grade) as stage manager calling the show and organizing it all.

Inaugural Tuxedo Volleyball Tournament

By Mrs. Michelle Hines

The Senior Class was able to run their first fundraiser of the year, the Inaugural Tuxedo Volleyball Tournament. This event was open to all students in grades 7-12, with all proceeds going to the Senior Class. There were over 37 participants, and after the double elimination tournament had ended, the team named Bozos came out on top. The team was comprised of Julia Marusich, Evangeleen Ortiz, Sarah Cruz Granillo, Camila Granillo, Abigaelle Pierre, and Anthony Arone.



Other teams in the tournament were the Sesame Seeds, Bots, JV Boys, and the Seniors. The participating teams will hopefully get to have a rematch with the Teacher Team (Mr. Reilly, Mr. Brunner, Ms. Park, Ms. Elmendorf, Mrs. Hines, Mr. Takeuchi) at the upcoming Pep Rally! The tournament was a fun time, enjoyed by all!



GFB Student Council gives back

By Mrs. Anne Castellanos



The George F. Baker High School Student Council is continuing their community outreach program this year. In November, the students made snack baskets for several departments at Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, NY. The students wanted to show their support for healthcare workers who continue to work tirelessly throughout the pandemic. Representatives from the hospital came to GFB to pick up the baskets and to meet the

students who made them. We look forward to this opportunity to continue our relationship with Good Sam in the future.

Student Council Prepares for the Pep Rally

By Michael Gurley-Diaz - Gr. 6

The GFB High School and Middle School Student Councils are preparing for the upcoming pep rally by creating class slogans, planning skits and designing class t-shirts.

The Middle School Student Council is doing a penny drive for charity. Middle School Student Council has fun activities planned for the annual pep rally. Both the High School and Middle School Student Councils decorated the hallways with their class colors.

Tuxedo Treasure

By Chloe Sisskind - Gr. 12

A trip to the Front Hall of GFB reveals the work of a Tuxedo treasure, retiree and graduate: Mrs. Bonny Takeuchi. Although retired, Mrs. Takeuchi designs and creates beautiful seasonal bulletin boards and decorations. The students and staff really enjoy these displays which make GFB feel like home. Stop by to see the latest creation: winter wonderland.



Members of NJHS

Participated in a Community Light Parade

By Ms. Jennifer Jones

A Light Parade was held in Eagle Valley on December 12, 2021. The purpose of the parade was to help fill the shelves at Sloatsburg Food Pantry. Each participant had to bring a bag of groceries and spectators were asked to donate an item or two. The first ever Eagle Valley Parade brought in over 100 bags of groceries and dozens of supermarket gift cards.



The following National Junior Honor Society Members participated: Chris Ahart, Jameson Brooks, Christopher Chacko, Abdullah Khan, Logan Saari-Poznanski, Will Sandak, Francesco Stillo, and Quentin Hubner from ASP. After brainstorming, the boys designed and created a “Santa’s Workshop” scene. They made their own props, decorated a truck for their float, and dressed up like elves. The boys had a great time while participating in a wonderful community event that reverberated far beyond their neighborhood streets.



Teacher Feature

By Lilianna Sosa - Gr. 6

Ms. Garrison is new to GFB as the 6th Grade Teacher. There are plenty of fun facts to know about Ms. Garrison. For example, did you know that while in college, Ms. Garrison built houses for Habitat for Humanity?



We are so lucky to have teachers who care so much about the welfare of mankind!

NHS and NJHS Fall Pasta Drive

By Chloe Sisskind - Gr. 12

NHS and NJHS connect to our community through drives. Many people are in need right now and we love to help. From November 13 through December 16, the National Honor Society and the National Junior Honor Society collected over 500 boxes of pasta and 75 boxes of cereal for the Sloatsburg Food Pantry. Upcoming drives include a cereal drive, a toiletry drive, a snack drive and a pet drive. If you would like to donate any items, please drop them off at the GFB Main Office.



Sports

Junior Varsity Basketball

By Mr. William Brunner

After a year off, basketball has returned to Tuxedo. Coached by Mr. Billy Brunner, the JV team has returned with a strong lineup this year consisting of Michael McColgan, Shane Bello, Anthony Arone, Sean Essoka, Jimi Reedy, Eli Osei-Tutu, Matthew Giglio, Jake Sandak, Moe Berthe, Justin Membreno, and Logan Bello. The season has started out strong with the team dropping a couple of closely contested games against Sullivan West and Tri Valley, but are eager to pick up the first win of the season. JV Basketball's next home game will be on January 11th.



Modified Boys Basketball

By Jack Reilly - Gr. 8

The Modified Boys Basketball team is off to a fun start! The coach this year is Ms. Park. The Players are Jack Reilly, Abdullah Khan, Gabe Ogden, Hamza Imran, William Sandak, Justin Graffeo, Chris Chacko, Chris Ahart and Jameson Brooks.

Modified Basketball practices in the gym after school daily. There are drills like running and stretching to prepare the students for games.

Home games are as follows:

- Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 4:00pm
- Monday, December 20, 2021 at 4:30 pm
- Tuesday, January 12, 2022 at 4:30 pm
- Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 4:00 pm
- Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 5:00pm

- Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 4:30 pm
- Wednesday February 16, 2022 at 4:30 pm

Girls Modified Basketball

By Mikaela Hall - Gr. 11 and Ms. Courtney Elmendorf



Basketball season is underway and the Girls Modified Basketball team has been practicing since the week of Thanksgiving. Mikaela Hall has been a huge asset to our team, as she is working with the girls to improve their skills, and teach them the ropes of the

game. We started by learning the basic basketball skills, dribbling and ball handling, shooting, foul shots, and footwork, and proceeded to work on understanding positions, teamwork, communication and offensive and defensive drills. More recently, we have been working on defensive skills, as the girls learn the proper defensive positions, the do and don'ts when defending, and a skill known as "boxing" out the opponent. We are having a blast, and we wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season!

Wrestling

By Mr. John Landro

Wrestling season has begun and the students are already winning their matches. Wrestlers Arturo Dominguez

and Christopher Lherisson are dominating their matches. Arturo is beginning his 3rd year of Varsity Wrestling. This is Christopher's 1st year wrestling. Both wrestlers are working very hard in practice and improving every day.



Join the wrestlers for a match:

- 12/10 vs Port Jervis @ Chester Academy
- 12/15 vs Warwick @ Washingtonville H.S.

- 12/22 vs Ellenville @ Chester Academy
- 1/7 vs Liberty @ Burke Catholic
- 1/13 vs FDR @ Washingtonville H.S.
- 1/19 vs Burke @ Chester Academy
- 2/2 vs Ellenville @ Burke Catholic
- 2/4 vs New Paltz @ Chester Academy

History of the Winter Solstice

By Chloe Sisskind - Gr. 12

The winter solstice is the shortest day of the year. In the Northern Hemisphere, it is in December. In the Southern Hemisphere, it is in June. Cultures around the world have celebrated the winter solstice since the Neolithic Age starting around 10,200 BCE. Some examples are Neolithic monuments such as Newgrange

in Ireland, Maeshowe in Scotland, and Stonehenge in England which are oriented toward the winter solstice sunset.

The ancient Romans had Saturnalia, a holiday in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture. There was a weeklong celebration that culminated in the winter solstice. Paired with Saturnalia, Juvenalia was a feast honoring children. On December 25, the Romans celebrated the birthday of Mithra, the ancient Persian god of light, who was later blended with Sol Invictus, god of the “unconquered sun.” The ancient Norseman of Scandinavia celebrated Yule from the winter solstice through January. This was a celebration indicating that the days would get longer after the solstice and the sun would slowly return. To recognize the

return of the sun, fathers and sons would bring home large logs called Yule logs. The Yule logs would be set on fire at one end and the people would feast until the Yule log burned out, which was usually 12 days. The sparks of the fire were signs of the springtime birth of calves or piglets.



The Incas celebrated the sun god Inti at a winter solstice celebration called Inti Raymi (Quecha for “sun festival”). The Incas fasted for three days before the solstice. On the winter solstice, they waited for the sun to rise and sacrificed animals, used the sun’s rays to start a fire with a mirror, and

offered golden cups of chicha, a beer made from fermented corn.

History of Christmas

By Emma Keating - Gr. 6

Christmas is an annual festival celebrating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. People have been celebrating Christmas since 336, but it became more popular in the 9th century. People celebrate Christmas by putting up Christmas trees and nativities.



Some families decorate their doors with wreaths, decorating

the outside with lights and putting poinsettias in jars all around their houses.. On the morning of December 25th, kids open gifts.

History of Hanukkah

By Jack Reilly - Gr. 8

There are 8 days of Hanukkah. It is a Jewish holiday. In 2021, Hanukkah began on the evening of Sunday, November 28 and ended Monday, December 6. Hanukkah, which means “dedication” in Hebrew, begins on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar and usually falls in November or December. Often called the Festival of Lights, the holiday is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah, traditional foods, games and gifts.



History of Kwanzaa

By Lilianna Sosa - Gr. 6

Kwanzaa is a secular festival celebrated by many African Americans from December 26 to January 1 as a celebration of their cultural heritage and traditions.



An American holiday, Kwanzaa was first celebrated in the 1960s to highlight African traditions and culture. During the holiday, one candle is lit per day over the course of seven days. These

seven candles represent seven symbols, values and virtues of African culture.

History of Snowmen

By Emma Keating - Gr. 6



The first snow man was built in the year 1380. The first snow man resembled a real man. It was not made up of the three snow balls. Snowmen are decorated with hats, scarves, mittens, a carrot nose, coal eyes and a button mouth. The first person to make a snowman is unknown, however it is a tradition that has been thrilling children for ages.

Chloe's Comedy Corner

By Chloe Sisskind - Gr. 12

1) Where do Santa's reindeer stop for coffee?

Star-bucks!

2) What do Santa's elves learn in school?

The elf-abet.

3) What do you call an obnoxious reindeer?

Rude-olph.

4) How do the elves clean Santa's sleigh on the day after Christmas?

They use Santa-tizer.

5) What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy?

Orna-mints!

6) What has four wheels and flies?

A garbage truck!

7) What did the buffalo dad say to his son before he left?

Bison!

8) Why does a chicken coop have 2 doors?

If it had 4, it'd be a chicken sedan!

9) What do you call a factory that makes OK products?

A satisfactory!

community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dreamt of."



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Noteworthy

Inspirations from the Past

Nelson Mandela

"A fundamental concern for others in our individual and