

MERRY CHRISTMAS EDITION. 2019

NEWSLETTER



PEACE ON EARTH

What do you want for Christmas? If your answer is to have peace on earth and goodwill toward men, then you most likely have a complete understanding of the lyrics of some Christmas songs you heard as a child. Having peace on earth first means to have peace within yourself in the midst of trials and challenges. We recently had our Thanksgiving Meal. The entire school ate in the gym at Sharon along with their family members who were able to attend. It was a chance to take time to realize God's blessings. The cooks,



OUR FIRST ALL PK-12 HOLIDAY MEAL!

custodians, and staff members, teamed up to make everything run smoothly. The Sharon-Mutual National Honor Society members and the Junior High Honor Society members helped by transporting items to the gym and they even served the crowd.

Watching the kids as they interacted with everyone, gave me time to stop and think that this is what life is really about. We should serve and help others. It is our hope here at the Newspaper that everyone enjoys family at this Christmas Season.

HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS



Ray Flaherty Performs Concert for Pre-K through 8th Grade in Sharon Coupled With Local Talents As Well

It's not often that you can have a local area talent come to your school to perform a concert for your students, but that's exactly what happened on the Monday prior to Thanksgiving. The student body was blessed with hearing the musical talent of Ray Flaherty who did a variety show for the student body and staff. The 19 year old musical prodigy manages Ray Flaherty Music and can be seen on his YouTube Channel performing with other area artists as well as filming his own duets, singing different parts, playing different musical instruments and finally placing each performance side by side on YouTube emphasizing not only his musical talents but also his editing and computer skills as well. To ramp up the concert a little bit, we had a special treat. Ray was open to allowing our own vocal talents to perform alongside with him.

At an almost impromptu moment, Ray was gracious enough to accept a request of mine which was allowing a couple of vocal music students perform with him on stage. Seventh Grade Children's All Stater, Abbey Elam, sang a duet with Ray at the concert. The duo performed "Shallow" from A Star Is Born. Eighth grade student, Carson Groff dueted "Even Though I'm Leaving" by Luke Combs with Ray on stage as well. It was a great experience for both students to not only perform with Ray but also to see an example of talent and hard work meeting each other at the point of much success. You never know where your talent and hard work will take you in life. We owe a big thank you to Ray for sharing and entertaining us with his outstanding concert. It was a huge blessing just before the holiday season begins. We truly can see that A Star Is Born in the sense of the season and in Ray's music.



Mrs. Vickie Schmidt Hosts Annual Playschool

Each week before Thanksgiving, Mrs. Schmidt hosts a playschool for 3-year-olds. She always provides outstanding activities and ideas for each of the children participating. Her FACS (formerly home economics) classes help take care of the children. It is a great experience for all involved. The play schoolers get some socialization with other kids their age and they absolutely love playing with the big kids. Mrs. Schmidt's teenage students discover how much responsibility it is to properly care for a child that age or any age for that matter. The activities that the play schoolers participated in included: playing with play dough, making turkey and bird feeder pine cones, puppet sacks were made for a puppet show, a scavenger hunt, a parade with songs, playing with puzzles, making plate animals and leaves mobiles, enjoyed doing the hokey pokey and playing buckle my shoe, and throwing darts and making hippo stickers, making refrigerator magnets, reading books, and making their own coloring book, blowing bubbles, making headdresses, making and decorating water bottles, constructing 3-D snowflake ornaments, designing art chalk on the sidewalks, making a bookmark, hand prints on paper, rolling the ball on the floor, making glitter pine cones and popsicle reindeer, playing with a balloon and keeping it up in the air, making stars, and the play schoolers all helped clean up and watched safety videos. Each of Mrs. Schmidt's students in her classes organized, taught and helped the students with each of the projects and activities. FACS students involved were: Carson Farrell, Ariona Bruce, Kaden Spray, Justin Roberts, Gabe Sessoms, Mia McLain, Grady Stocking, Olivia Shuyler, MaKynlee Mulbery, Matthew Mitchell, Abbie Neill, Adryan Mullins, Karlie Weir, Kallie Harris, Drake Killman, Lane Spencer, Heidi Keene, Alexi Russell, Reyna Rosales, and Isaiah Mitchell. Thank you to Mrs. Schmidt and her FACS students for continuing to provide this wonderful community outreach. Please enjoy some of the pictures that were taken during the playschool. Thank you to Mrs. Schmidt and her classes for continuing to provide this wonderful community outreach.





Senior of the Month

Name: Mia McLain

Parents/Guardian: LaDena and Ronn McLain

Siblings: Lee McLain and Sayb Klaus

Favorite Meal: Chicken and rice

Favorite Class: English

Hobbies: Drawing and writing

Who Do You Admire: My mom

Future Plans: I don't have any set plans but I would like to look into becoming a real estate agent or maybe counselor.



Senior of the Month

Name: Kalea Bruce

Parents/Guardian: Brandon and Tesha Bruce

Siblings: Chancery

Favorite Meal: Spaghetti

Favorite Class: Health Careers at votech

Hobbies: hanging with friends

Who Do You Admire: My Mom

Future Plans: being a physician assistant



Senior of the Month

Name: Campbell McAllister

Parents/Guardian: Dannette and Cole Braley

Siblings: Thompson McAllister

Favorite Meal: Steak

Favorite Class: Ag

Hobbies: Fishing

Who Do You Admire: Cole

Future Plans: Go to Oklahoma Panhandle State University and major in Agricultural Teaching



Student Achievements and Congratulations!

Mrs. Reichenberger announced prior to Thanksgiving that 7th grade student, Abbey Elam had tried out for Children's All-State. Abbey was selected as an All-Stater. Way to go!

Miss Abbie Neill recently was chosen as Miss Sharon-Mutual and represented Sharon-Mutual at the Miss Cinderella competition. Abbie achieved a scholarship for Northwest Oklahoma State University in Alva. Thank you and Congratulations!

Senior football player, Alex Carter, was selected as an Offensive-Defensive 2020 All-American player and has been invited him to play in a bowl game in Florida, announced CEO Rick Whittier. Alex and his family will travel to Florida in January to watch Alex train and play in his game. Congratulations!

Congratulations

The following excerpt is from Wikipedia detailing the history of a letter to the editor from a girl named Virginia O'Handley, who wanted to know if there really was a Santa Claus.

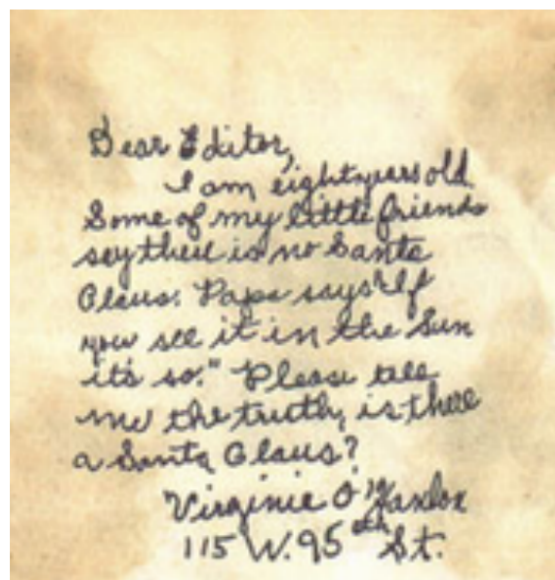
In 1897, Dr. Philip O'Hanlon, a coroner's assistant on Manhattan's [Upper West Side](#), was asked by his then eight-year-old daughter, Virginia O'Hanlon (1889–1971), whether [Santa Claus](#) really existed. O'Hanlon suggested she write to [The Sun](#), a prominent New York City newspaper at the time, assuring her that "If you see it in *The Sun*, it's so."^[3] In so doing, Dr. O'Hanlon had unwittingly given one of the paper's editors, [Francis Pharcellus Church](#), an opportunity to rise above the simple question and address the philosophical issues behind it.

Church was a [war correspondent](#) during the [American Civil War](#), a time that saw great suffering and a corresponding lack of hope and faith in much of society. Although the paper ran the editorial in the seventh place on the page, below even one on the newly invented "[chainless bicycle](#)", it was both noticed and well received by readers. According to an anecdote on the radio program [The Rest of the Story](#), Church was a hardened cynic and an [atheist](#) who had little patience for superstitious beliefs, did not want to write the editorial, and refused to allow his name to be attached to the piece.^[4] More than a century later it is the most reprinted editorial in any newspaper in the [English language](#).^{[1][2]}

In 1971, after seeing Virginia's obituary in [The New York Times](#), four friends formed a company called Elizabeth Press and published a children's book titled *Yes, Virginia* that illustrated the editorial and included a brief history of the main characters.^[5] Its creators took it to Warner Brothers, who eventually made an Emmy award-winning television show based on the editorial. [The History Channel](#), in a special that aired on February 21, 2001, noted that Virginia gave the original letter to a granddaughter, who pasted it in a scrapbook. It was feared that the letter was destroyed in a house fire, but 30 years later, it was discovered intact.^[citation needed]

The original letter

A copy of the letter, hand-written by Virginia and believed by her family to be the original was authenticated in 1998 by Kathleen Guzman, an appraiser on the television program [Antiques Roadshow](#).^[2] Some commentators doubt that a young girl would refer to children her own age as "my little friends" and suspect Virginia's father assisted her in composing the letter or even wrote it himself.^[6]



Dear Editor,
I am eight years old
Some of my little friends
say there is no Santa
Claus. Papa says if
you see it in the Sun
it's so." Please tell
me the truth, is there
a Santa Claus?
Virginia O'Hanlon
115 W. 95th St.

This article in its entirety can be found online at The New York Sun. The original publish date was in 1897 and has long since been a treasured remembrance at this time and season.

Yes, Virginia ...

Editorial of The New York Sun | December 21, 2012

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

Dear Editor—

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

115 West Ninety Fifth Street

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence.

We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

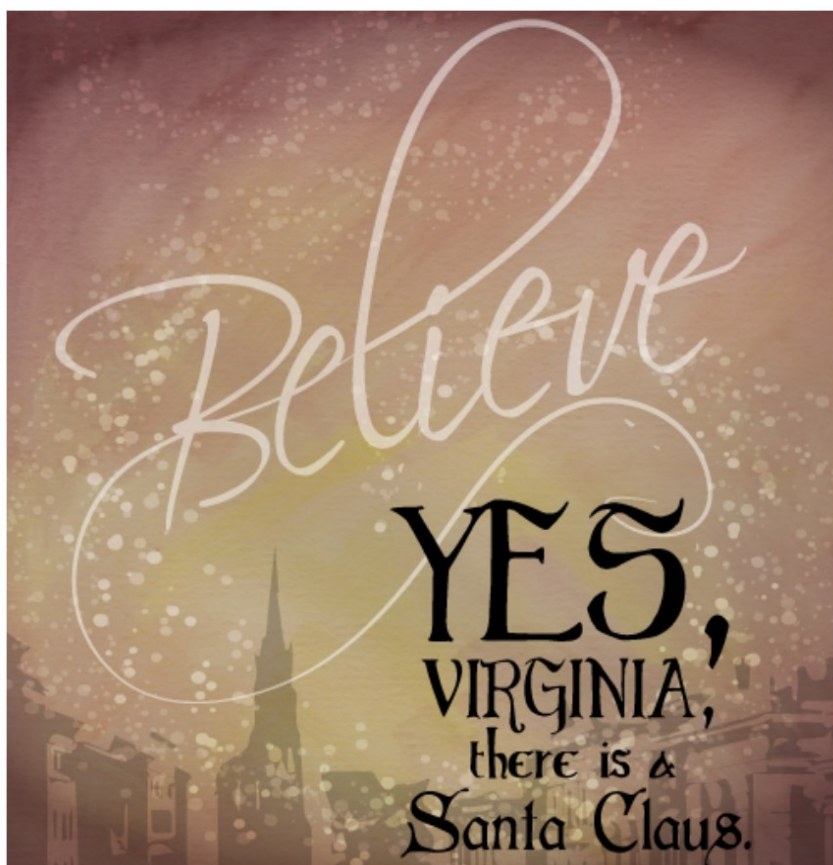


Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

"Is There a Santa Claus?" reprinted from the September 21, 1897, number of The New York Sun.





How Do We Produce a Newspaper?

I thought you'd never ask! You've probably noticed a few unpunctuated sentences or incomplete lists that we retract in the next issue. Since our students and staff complete lots of work on google docs, we write our articles on google docs as well. This allows us to share the articles with each other, edit, add graphics and other text to the document until it's complete. When looking for the least expensive way to enter our articles into a publishing software, we needed a publishing software compatible with google docs. LucidPress is compatible with google docs but not Microsoft publisher. Our process goes much like this: we write our articles on docs and then the editor (that's me) copies the docs and pastes them into LucidPress and makes the pages fit into different templates or a blank page. Then she, the editor, copies the entire text and pictures that we've created, then she pastes them into Microsoft publisher which is what we print from. So when you see simple errors like no punctuation after sentences, it's most likely something that has not actually copied and pasted correctly or it may be hiding underneath one of the templates, etc. Wow! I'm so glad that you asked and hope that you are enjoying our issues of the school newspaper for that is our intention.

Editor's Note: And since the October edition was so late, we decided to compile the November Newspaper with a Christmas Edition since we were already finished with November. The delay in October was one of the drawbacks of using two publishing programs and copying and pasting, then not knowing that it did not save as a google doc upon emailing the e-edition. My sincerest apologies!

Don't forget: If you would like to receive the school newsletter by mail, please email Mrs. Elam at delam@smps.k12.ok.us with your name and complete mailing address. If you would like to be added to the scholarship email list, please email Mrs. Hopper at thopper@smps.k12.ok.us.



The Amazing History of Christmas by Prager U

The Rich and Varied Traditions

Christmas is the day that Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The first Christmas stands as the Great Divide as the recording for human history. Until recently, history was divided between BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini which is Latin for the year of our Lord). Now you see BCE (before the common era) or CE (comma era). No matter which it is, the division between BC and AD is the year of Jesus's birth.

Some kings of the first millennium celebrated the day of Christmas by being either baptized or coronated on Dec 25.

Gift-giving dates back to the third century when a church bishop, Nicholas would anonymously throw bags of gold coins into the houses of the poor supposedly landing in the shoes or stockings drying above the fireplace creating the tradition of stuffing stockings and after Nicholas dies he was declared a saint, Saint Nicholas.

In Germany, placing evergreens in their homes took a new tradition in the 16th century and Martin Luther starting the tradition of decorating the tree by placing candles on the tree and saying the lights represented the sky over Bethlehem the night Christ was born.

The idea that St. Nicholas would judge if you were good or bad during the year stems from the Book of Revelations in the New Testament, this sprung up during the Middle Ages that St. Nicholas who would ride in on a white horse was chosen as the Savior's advance guard checking things every year and giving a report. When this notion arrived in Norway they didn't have horses, so they changed the story a little with St. Nicholas and his Reindeer and Norway were in the Arctic circle changing St. Nicholas's location.

In New York, in 1823, Professor Clement Moore wrote the poem "Twas the night before Christmas" for his children. That caught on and became a Christmas poem that every school kid could recite.

In 1843 British writer Charles Dickens published his short novel, *A Christmas Carol*. The Redemption of Ebenezer Scrooge perfectly captured what we now refer to as “the Christmas spirit” the idea that the holidays bring out the best in all of us.

As the 19th century came, Hollywood started getting Christmas movies into the filming industry and now not a year goes by without a new Christmas movie.

In 1931 Madison Avenue saw a big opportunity and hired an artist to create a Christmas ad of Santa Claus drinking coke for Coca-Cola. The jolly red fellow in a bright red suit is the personification of Old Saint Nick.

And in perfect melting pot fashion, Irving Berlin, the son of a rabbi, wrote the definitive yuletide song, *White Christmas*.

Many have complained today that the religious aspect of Christmas has been overwhelmed by commerce. Retail sales between Thanksgiving and Christmas are now \$1trillion. This is not a new complaint. The Puritans refused to celebrate Christmas because they thought it was trivialized the holiday’s religious message. But this remains the minority view. Most people love Christmas and all the things-- the lights, the trees, the songs, the movies, and yes, the gifts that come with it. And who can deny that people act a little bit nicer a little happier, as the day draws near?

In a world that is so divided, Christmas still unites us. For that, we should all be grateful.

--William Federer, author of “There Really Is A Santa Claus”



PEANUTS
MERRY
CHRISTMAS,
CHARLIE BROWN!

